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Burg asks for details of Swedish steel for Nazi gold

By BATSHEVA TSUR and news agencies

Jewish leaders reacted swiftly yesterday to reports Sweden had received stolen gold from the Nazis in exchange for supplying steel to wartime Germany.

Swedish Radio yesterday led its morning bulletins with reports that documents had been uncovered in the archives of the National Bank in Stockholm attesting to the fact that the bank had received gold stolen from various European countries. According to the documents, the Swedish government sent Germany steel in return, and asked the bank to withhold this information from the public.

In a letter to Swedish Ambassador to Israel John Hajard, Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg noted that he,

Sweden got more Nazi gold than was thought, Page 4

together with World Jewish Congress president Edgar Bronfman had been making international efforts to trace stolen Jewish property and assets.

"Allegations have arisen suggesting that there are documents proving Sweden ordered the [National Bank] to conceal the information," about the exchange of gold for steel, Burg wrote in his letter. "We cannot rule out the possibility that the gold... was taken from Jewish victims." He asked that the Swedish government relay all of the relevant information and documents to the Jewish organizations as soon as possible.

Burg intimated that cooperation could be expected from Stockholm. "I believe that the long-standing relationship between Sweden and the Jewish people is a positive one based on principles of morality and fairness," he wrote. "Therefore, I have no doubt that your government - unlike other European governments - will do all it can to work with us in discovering the truth and all of the facts."

Recently Sweden's foreign minister assured the WJC that the reports of stolen gold being stashed in Stockholm would be investigated thoroughly.

Meanwhile, Burg and WJC secretary-general Israel Singer are considering setting up a special committee to independently investigate Switzerland's wartime involvement. The committee would work in conjunction with the Israeli government, they said.

The decision follows Switzerland's announcement of its intention to hold its own investigation into the historical issues.

"We are concerned there could be an attempt to rewrite history," Burg said. "Such a step would turn the current proceedings of the international commission [looking into dormant accounts in Swiss banks] headed by [US banker] Paul Volcker into a rubber stamp based on an incorrect historical understanding."

It would be preferable, he said, to hold a consociative dialogue by providing the Volcker committee with access to the full documentation of the Swiss historical committee, "but if we must, we can do it alone," he added.

Special envoy Thomas Borer, head of a Swiss government task force on dormant Holocaust-era accounts, and the Swiss Jewish Federation (SIG) described the plan by as unnecessary. They said an international historians' panel formed by the Berne government could hold an independent probe.



Coexistence takes root
Cpl. Efrat Dahan and Manal Rashmian, both of Jerusalem, plant a sapling yesterday in honor of Tu B'Shvat at the new JNF forest in the capital's Malha section. Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert (center) and JNF chairman Moshe Rivlin help out. (Aviel Jerusalemi)

Gingrich gets \$300,000 fine

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - In a historic and humbling rebuke to its leader, the US House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly yesterday to reprimand Speaker Newt Gingrich and order him to pay \$300,000 for violating House rules.

The pugnacious 53-year-old Georgia Republican, who appeared an unstoppable force when he took over his post two years ago, became the first House speaker in US history to be punished for misconduct by a formal vote of his colleagues.

He was not in the chamber for the 395-28 vote, the climax to two years of bitter partisan charges and counter-charges that undermined his authority.

After a brief debate notable for its decorum, 195 Republicans voted in favor of punishing the speaker. Five members abstained.

Gingrich was reelected speaker just two weeks ago in a close vote in which a few of his own party members deserted him. He is the

US expects regional thaw

Indyk calls on Arabs to credit PM

By DAVID MAKOVSKY

The US, encouraged by the preliminary reaction from moderate Arab Gulf and North African states to Israel's pullback in Hebron, believes this favorable response will lead to a thawing of ties with Israel, US officials said yesterday.

Such a thaw may include a revitalization of the long dormant multilateral peace talks, the officials said. The US also publicly called on Arab countries to be more forthcoming with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government in light of the Hebron deal.

In a speech to the Foreign Press Association yesterday, US Ambassador Martin Indyk made clear that it was not good for the US to have been so deeply involved in the Hebron talks that it had become a "crutch" in the negotiations. Nevertheless, he said, the Arab states should realize the importance of the Hebron deal.

"When [Palestinian Authority Chairman] Yasser Arafat calls Bibi Netanyahu his friend and partner, then why shouldn't the others do the same?" he said.

"One has a sense that something has changed," he said, in reference to Arafat's conciliatory speech in Hebron and the premier's subsequent favorable acknowledgement of the remarks.

"It is time to suspend disbelief and to credit the prime minister with the courage that he has demonstrated in making this agreement, in passing it through the cabinet and in implementing it expeditiously," Indyk said, adding that the US has obtained signals from Jordan, Egypt, Morocco and Oman of a willingness to move closer to Israel.

US diplomats in the region began appealing to Arab leaders before the Hebron deal was signed to improve links with Israel once a deal was struck. They renewed that appeal upon briefing Arab leaders once the deal was concluded.

US Consul-General in Jerusalem Ed Abington said the US is receiving good feedback from the Arab world.

"The signs we are seeing are quite positive. We're making the point as we brief various governments in the region that Netanyahu has stepped up to the plate and delivered, and the various governments should take this into account in a positive way."

"The reaction to the agreement is quite positive. I believe we will see some moves by Gulf and North African states, and we will see a revitalization of the multilateral track," he said.

The multilaterals are the supplementary peace track dedicated to promoting regional cooperation.

There is speculation that Netanyahu's foreign policy adviser Dore Gold will visit a number of Arab countries very shortly in order to promote a regional thaw.

Jordanian Ambassador to Israel Omar Rifai said last night that his country is now open to a visit by Netanyahu to Amman, but said that due to the Moslem holy month of Ramadan, involving daily fasts, it is likely such a visit would take place only after Ramadan ends on February 9.

Oman Foreign Minister Yusuf Bin-Alawi said his country is willing to renew its dialogue with Israel following the Hebron deal. In an interview on Israel Radio's English service last week, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa said that Netanyahu would be invited to Cairo after a Hebron deal. So far, there has been no announcement of an invitation.

If the pattern of last summer holds, Netanyahu will be invited to Cairo before Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak visits Washington next month, in order to deflect impending criticism of Egypt by members of Congress. Privately, US senators and congressmen have been charging that Egypt played a "spoiler role" in the Hebron talks, and it is believed this was said directly to Mubarak by some of the many members of Congress who visited Egypt in the last couple of weeks.

Hebron pact boosts tourism

By HAIM SHAPIRO

The tourism industry, in the doldrums for almost a year, appears to be looking up following the signing of the Hebron redeployment agreement. New reservations are streaming in to local tour organizers and at least one airline, Lufthansa, is scheduling an additional 40 flights for the spring.

In a related development, Israel, the Palestinian Authority, and Jordan this week jointly published an advertisement in the US with the slogan, "Peace - It's a wonderful sight," inviting Americans to visit the three areas. The advertisement is part of a campaign to capitalize on the wave of positive reports concerning Israel following the agreement.

Tourism to Israel, which began with a very promising start at the outset of 1996, fell sharply in March following the bus bombings and other terror acts. The opening of a new exit to the Western Wall Tunnel, although intended to encourage tourism, actually again dampened it when this was followed by riots and violence.

However, following the signing of the Hebron agreement, the wind of opinion seems to be changing. Ya'acov Geva, director of Avi Desert Safaris, said that within a day or two of the signing, he began to get a wave of reservations from abroad.

"It's almost like what happened after Entebbe," Geva said, recalling that after the successful rescue of the hostages in Uganda, there was an immediate swell in the number of visitors to Israel. He added that one major tour operator abroad sent him a fax yesterday, which said, "Get ready."

Lufthansa has already decided to put on an additional 40 flights in the spring, the company's Israel spokesman, Yitzhak Zaroni, said yesterday.

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NEWS

in brief

Federman to be released today

Former Kach spokesman Noam Federman, placed under administrative detention two-and-a-half months ago, is scheduled to be released today. His wife Elisheva said that two GSS agents spoke with him for some 90 minutes yesterday telling him that he would be released and warning him not to break the law. According to Elisheva Federman, her husband replied that he does not break the law and is willing to undergo a polygraph test to prove it.

Federman's lawyer Naftali Wertzberger said that the period of Federman's detention was to end today, but that up until last night it was unclear whether it would be extended. *Herb Keimon*

Polish panel OKs plan for Jewish property

A special parliamentary commission approved a draft law yesterday to provide restitution to Poland's Jewish community for synagogues, schools, cemeteries and other communal property lost during World War II.

The law would not apply to individuals, but would entitle Poland's nine Jewish communities to reclaim or seek compensation for 1,500 cemeteries, 17 synagogues and a number of schools in their district that were Jewish-owned before the war. Parliament is expected to vote within a month on the draft, which also requires approval from the president. *AP*

Arbel: Gidron panel should reexamine suspects

Acting Attorney-General Edna Arbel has recommended that the Gidron Committee reexamine several General Security Service agents on suspicion that they coordinated their testimony before the committee. The committee - set up to investigate suspicions that someone had informed MK Aryeh Deri (Shas) of wiretaps against himself and his codefendants while the police were investigating him - had recommended that a criminal investigation be opened against these GSS agents for obstructing justice, because of the allegedly coordinated testimony.

However, Arbel said there is not yet enough evidence to warrant a criminal investigation. *Evelyn Gordon*

IDF bans cellular phones in security zone

The Northern Command yesterday imposed a strict order banning soldiers from using cellular phones in the security zone. This follows reports that Hizbullah has been listening to conversations and using the information to plan attacks. *David Rudge*

Netanya man dies from strep infection

David Shalashvili, 22, of Netanya, died of a virulent streptococcus infection yesterday at Laniado Hospital. He had gone to the hospital's emergency room the previous day, but the disease had been misdiagnosed as flu and he was given medication for that and sent home. He returned 18 hours later and the disease was properly diagnosed, but by then it had already reached an advanced stage and spread throughout his body, and he died shortly after. *Itim*

Hebron observers pact signed

Foreign Ministry Director-General Eitan Benzur and Palestinian Authority negotiator Saeb Erekat yesterday signed an agreement for the stationing of international observers in Hebron. In the coming weeks, 150 observers from six countries will join the 30 TIPH observers already stationed there. *Itim*

Shahak: Tension down since Hebron redeployment

By LIAT COLLINS

Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak said yesterday the Hebron handover had gone smoothly and tension has been reduced in the territories as a result. However, he warned that trouble could be caused in the future by a few extremists.

"I believe most of the people are much more relaxed now," Shahak told parliamentary reporters after addressing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. He called on the Palestinian Police and Palestinian Authority to act in accordance with the agreement to keep the peace in the area under its control.

"The security situation in Hebron was very complicated before the redeployment and is, of course, complicated still today. We are there and the IDF will continue to do

its job to protect all the people in Hebron in the area under its authority.

"What will determine the security situation to a large extent is the seriousness of the Palestinian Police and Palestinian Authority to fulfill their responsibilities in the areas in which they are responsible for internal security. If they do their job properly, we should see a reasonable security situation."

He confirmed that Israel had demanded the Palestinians hand over the arms they are holding in violation of the Hebron agreement, but could not say where the weapons are now.

Regarding Lebanon, Shahak said there had been no significant change in the number and type of attacks, although there had been a slight rise in Hizbullah activities. He spoke positively of the monitoring committee established after Operation Grapes of

Wrath and described it as a good "pressure valve." He joked that it is the only committee on which Israelis, Syrians, and Lebanese sit together. Shahak said it is still not clear who carried out the Karyusha attacks on western Galilee in January, but that is certain it was not the work of Hizbullah.

Much of the meeting focused on recruitment and morale. Shahak responded to a report on Israel Radio yesterday, which quoted an IDF officer saying the army is not taking enough initiative in south Lebanon. Shahak admitted there is "not a little frustration" among soldiers there and said officers must be able to express their views, but he criticized the fact that the comment had been leaked to the press.

He said IDF officers must be able to feel free to state their opinions, and they would not be able to do this in internal meetings if they felt their statements would be leaked.

An officer from Manpower Branch presented figures for recruitment for those born in 1978. He said 79.9 percent of males and 64.4 percent of females reaching draft age had been conscripted. The number of those not drafted for religious reasons had risen by 50% among males compared to the number two years ago, standing at 6.5% of males of draft age; 23.3 percent of the draft-age females were not conscripted for religious reasons, an increase of 3 percent compared to those born in 1976.

Of those eligible for the draft, 5.9 percent of males and 4.4 percent of females were exempted for health and mental health reasons. Of the males, 2.6 percent were exempted for social reasons, including a criminal record, a slight decrease compared to those born in 1976. Of the females, 1.9 percent were exempted because they were married.

Egypt said open to 'warm peace'

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Egypt is open to creating a "warm peace" with Israel, including upgrading defense links, now that the Hebron agreement with the Palestinians is being implemented, defense officials said.

This message was relayed in a Tel Aviv meeting between the US ambassador to Egypt and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai yesterday. Defense officials said Ambassador Edward Walker, accompanied by US Ambassador to Israel Martin Indyk, said the Hebron agreement had brought about a change in the atmosphere in the Middle East and opened the way for further progress.

Walker told Mordechai that his visit to Egypt last month had created positive waves and his meetings with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Defense Minister Mohamed Tantawi had helped warm relations.

Mordechai briefed the American ambassadors on Israel's security problems and the government's

readiness to progress on the peace front.

"We are prepared to renew at any time the negotiations with Syria," Mordechai was quoted as telling the American diplomats.

Mordechai added that he believes the peace with Egypt and Jordan is a "strategic peace" and all efforts must be made to maintain and develop it.

Mordechai recalled how both Mubarak and Tantawi urged the removal of the word "war" from their lexicon. He added that there were ways to "warm relations" between the countries in the security and other fields.

Walker, Indyk and Mordechai also discussed the strategic situation in the Middle East and progress in the peace process, as well as possible ways to improve relations between Egypt and Israel.

Both Walker and Indyk said the US was interested in an improvement in relations between Israel and Egypt and willing to help wherever needed, defense officials said.



Peres and Arafat meet in Rome
Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat and Labor Party leader Shimon Peres embrace yesterday at the Socialist International meeting in Rome. They held a 45-minute private meeting during the conference. Arafat expressed hope the Hebron pact "will be implemented accurately and honestly, in particular regarding redeployment from more Palestinian land in accordance with the designated dates and timetable." *(AP)*

Cairo court renews detention of man accused of spying for Israel

CAIRO (AP) - A court yesterday renewed the detention for 30 days of a retired navy officer accused of spying for Israel.

Samir Osman, 47, is believed to have sold information on his military unit to Israeli agents in Hungary, Greece and Turkey. He was also said to have swam from Tabu to the nearby Israeli border for secret meetings with agents.

Osman reportedly confessed, but prosecutors have yet to charge him. After the 30-day detention, he will have been held for six months, after which he must be freed or charged.

If found guilty, Osman could face up to 25 years in jail.

Osman's case is one of two that involved espionage charges in recent months. In November, security agents arrested Azzam Azzam, an Israeli citizen accused of spying for Israel.

'Jews welcome here,' Hebron mayor tells Tekoa rabbi

By HERB KEIMON

Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natshe met yesterday with Rabbi Menachem Froman from Tekoa.

While Froman has met with Natshe before, and has met for years with Palestinians of all political stripes, the mayor has not met officially yet with representatives of either Kiryat Arba or Hebron's tiny Jewish community.

An overture last year from Hebron community leader Noam Arnon to Natshe went unanswered. Froman said that Natshe told him yesterday that he had received a request from settlers in Kiryat Arba or Hebron for a meeting, which Israel Radio then reported was scheduled to take place today.

But Tzuri Popovitch, spokesman for the Kiryat Arba Local Council, said that reports of the meeting "have no basis in reality."

"There was no such request for a meeting," Popovitch said, adding that there is no contact between the Kiryat Arba and Hebron municipalities. He said no contact would take place as long as "Natshe continues to call for Hebron's Jews to be removed."

Popovitch dismissed Froman's meeting as a "performance." He said the meeting has no significance for area settlers, since "Froman has no influence on anyone."

After the meeting in Hebron with Froman, Natshe told reporters, "We welcome any Jew or Israeli who wishes to recognize the Palestinian Authority in Hebron, and to say we wish to live in peace."

Referring to a Peace Now-organized delegation of descendants of victims of the 1929 massacre, who met with Natshe last year in Hebron, the mayor said, "We had a delegation come to Hebron - Hebronite Jews - and they expressed to us their solidarity, and they

condemned the settler acts against the Palestinians."

Froman said that in private talks with Natshe, the mayor did not say anything about the Jews having to recognize the Palestinian Authority in the city.

"He told me that he invites Jews to live in Hebron, that he has no problem with this, and that all the problems are only from troublemakers," Froman said.

Froman quoted Natshe as saying that his main concern in the city now has to do with welfare issues, and that he thinks Jews in the city will be good for the city's economy. This opinion, Froman said, is shared by many of Hebron's Palestinian residents.

Froman said the purpose of the meeting, which he initiated, was to try to develop cooperation between settlers and the Palestinians. "My premise is that for Jews to live in all of Eretz Yisrael, they have to create a network of life with the Arabs," he said.

In order to move forward, Froman said, "You have to recognize the new reality. Neither Natshe nor I prayed for this agreement, but it's what we have." Froman said that settler interaction with the Palestinians is needed so that "every time a mobile home is put up somewhere, there will not be an international uproar."

Froman said that his meeting with Natshe was an independent move, and that he did not coordinate it with the settlement leadership in Kiryat Arba or Hebron beforehand, and that he did not report back to them afterwards.

A group of some 10 settlers met with Arafat in Bethlehem last month, a meeting that Arafat referred to positively in his speech in Hebron on Sunday. That delegation included one settler from Hebron and two from Kiryat Arba.

2nd anniversary of Beit Lid bombing marked today

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Families, friends, and comrades are to gather at Beit Lid this afternoon to mark the second anniversary of the suicide bombings there that killed 22 soldiers and wounded over 60, in the greatest loss of soldiers on a single day since the 1982 Lebanon War.

Representatives of the bereaved will join Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and former president Chaim Herzog in laying a cornerstone for a memorial.

Two Islamic Jihad suicide bombers blew themselves up at the Beit Lid bus depot near Netanya on January 22, 1995. Twenty-one soldiers died in the attack and just last month the last victim, Cpl. Assaf Ben-Or, succumbed to his wounds, bringing the total to 22. Most of the soldiers were paratroopers and Nahal troops returning to their bases after spending Shabbat at home.

Attending the 2:30 p.m. ceremony will be OC Paratrooper Brigade Col. Benny Gans, as well as his predecessor, Col. Yisrael Ziv, who led the brigade at the time of the attack. OC Nahal Brig.-Gen. Ran Galinka and OC Manpower Maj.-Gen. Gideon Sheffer are also to attend.

IDF seeks to hand over control of Gaza crossings to civilians

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

On Defense Ministry orders, the IDF is starting to hand over control of the crossings into the Gaza Strip to private companies. OC Southern Command Maj.-Gen. Shlomo Yanai said doing so would make them safer and reduce the need to resort to closures.

According to Yanai, the crossings will be operated by civilian guards in place of soldiers and border policemen. The IDF will retain security responsibility over the crossings, he said. Sixty guards have already replaced IDF soldiers at the Karni crossing.

Yanai, who assumed command last February, dodged questions on whether turning the crossings into

more efficient and capable of detecting an attempt to violate security. Military sources said soldiers aren't as well trained for the task as civilian guards.

"The security responsibility of the crossings are in the hands of the IDF and will apparently remain that way until the matter is discussed in the permanent arrangements," Yanai said.

Yanai, who assumed command last February, dodged questions on whether turning the crossings into those resembling an international border was paving the way to the appearance of a Palestinian state.

"At the moment it is a crossing between an authority and the State of Israel and not a crossing between two nations. I presume that some of the arrangements to be discussed in the permanent agreement negotiations will also deal with this," Yanai said.

Another benefit of privatizing is that the civilian guards appear less threatening than uniformed soldiers.

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mourns the passing of
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Beloved mother of our dear friend and colleague
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Bar-Ilan's Director of Global Development
Deepest condolences to the Berkstein and Haimoff families
May you be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem

We deeply mourn the passing of the matriarch of our family
Rabbanit FREDA FRIEDMAN
widow of Rabbi Israel E. Friedman
The funeral has taken place in Jerusalem
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Pitzke and Judah Lando
Jackie Goldman
Marian Hillson
Grandchildren and great-grandchildren
Shiva at the Friedman home, 7 Renov Herzl, Ra'anana

With great sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved wife, mother and grandmother
ESTHER JOHANNA LEVIE VAN-CAMPEN
The funeral will take place today, Wednesday, January 22, 1997 (14 Shvat 5757) at 11 a.m. at the Herzliya cemetery, Rehov Pinskyer
Families Levie, Waterman, Lahat and Hadass

Our heartfelt condolences to our dear Angela Clairmont, and to George and Ann and their children on the passing of our friend
MARCEL M. CLAIRMONT
a great benefactor to many institutions, families and individuals in Israel
Josef, Raya and Nurith Jaglom
Elan and Nurit Jaglom
and their children

ARRIVALS
Members of the Hadassah WZO National Board, headed by Hadassah National and International President, Marlene E. Pest, for Hadassah's Mid-Winter Conference, to mark Hadassah's 85th Anniversary, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Jerusalem.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL
THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1:00 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street. PDG David Neuman will speak on: New Training and Development Programs of Rotary International.

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Holocaust survivors protest coloring book exhibit

By BAT SHEVA TOUR

The Israel Museum last night opened a controversial exhibit of coloring books devoted to the Holocaust, despite requests from angry Holocaust survivors that they not go on public display.

The exhibit was devised by an 27-year-old Israeli artist, Ram Katsir, the grandson of survivors, who studied in Holland and earlier presented it there. Called "Within the Lines," the 13 coloring books "innocently" portray the horrors of the Shoah without the reader realizing initially what he or she is looking at. The hands-on exhibit is on display in the Billy Rose Pavilion.

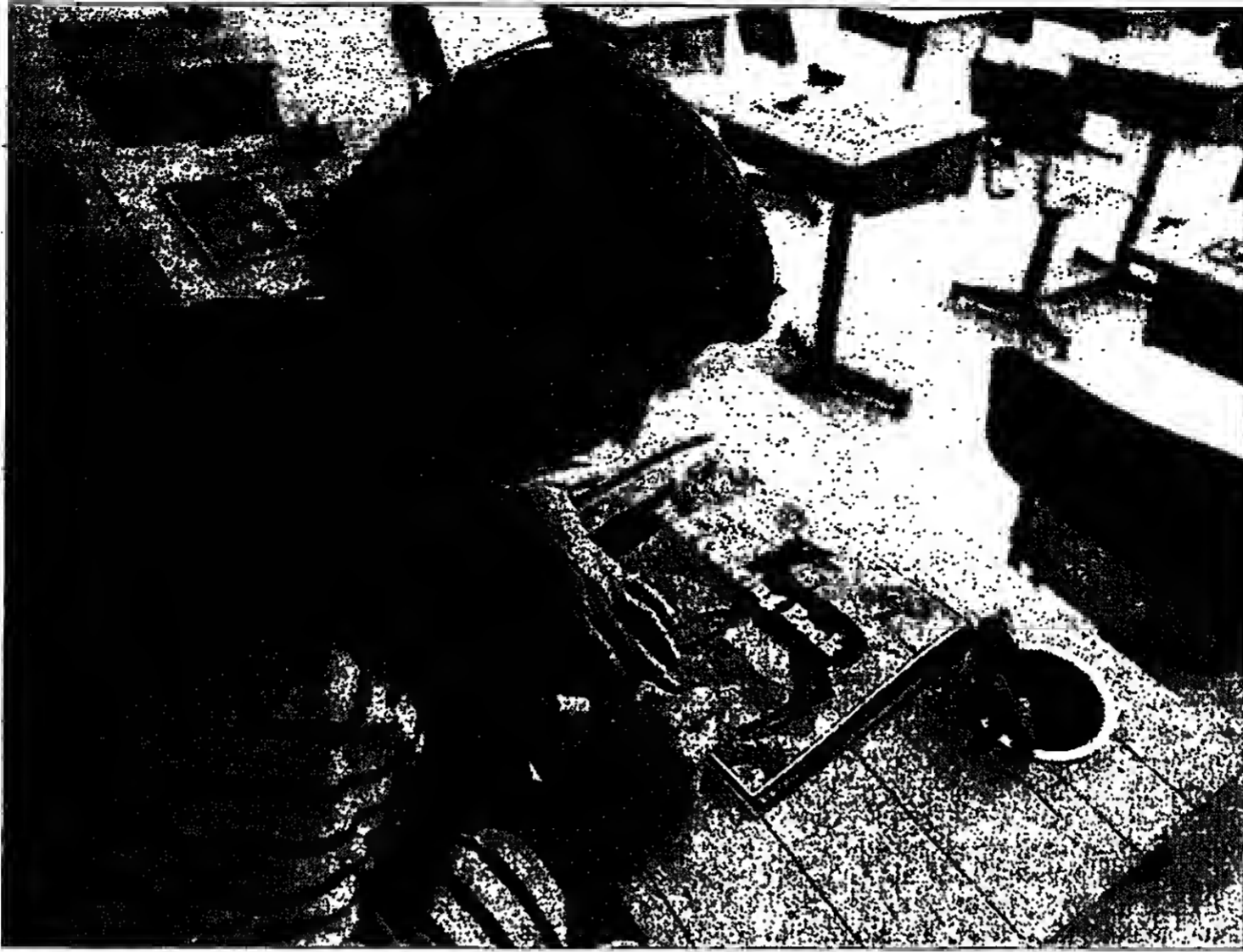
Earlier, cabinet secretary Danny Naveh had added his voice to the protesters, on behalf of the Ministerial Committee on Antisemitism, saying that the exhibit could offend the feelings of many. He was speaking on Israel Radio.

John Lemberger, director of Amcha, an organization that provides emotional support for survivors, said he had first seen the books about a week ago. "I realized that it would shock and upset survivors. When you look at the pictures to be colored, they appear very innocent - a bench, a child, a family, someone feeding a dog," Lemberger said.

"At the end of the book you see a black page and when you lift it, you see the real pictures taken from the Shoah - Hitler feeding a dog, Goebbels with his family, a Nazi shaving off the sidecurls of a Jew. You color in fragments, sometimes a whole picture, of children, without realizing what they are actually doing. Sometimes they are going to their death. Others times, you will later see, they are saying 'Heil Hitler.'"

Lemberger said that the book was shown to a group at Amcha. "There was horror and shock. This was twofold - firstly, the apparently innocent pictures, and secondly that it received legitimization from the Israel Museum... The feeling is that a national institution is giving legitimacy to the travesty of the Holocaust."

The coloring book can be bought at the museum. "Children can innocently color in these pictures and this will have a tremendous emotional effect on their parents or grandparents," Lemberger said. "Amcha gets the rebound as the only institution that deals with the trauma of the Shoah. We tried to warn the museum. They were totally unresponsive. They felt we had misread it."



Artist Ram Katsir yesterday displays his controversial coloring book at its special exhibit at the Israel Museum. (Flash 90)

Museum officials said that visitors can sit down in a special classroom built for the exhibit and color in the books. They are based on 13 pictures from the Holocaust, but are presented as everyday scenes. Only at the end - when seeing the original pictures - does the viewer realize where they were taken from. The artist noted that he provides a written explanation at the end of the book.

"The book is intended for adults and deals with manipulation of information," the museum spokesman said. "It shows fragments from reality and presents them as something innocent. It shows, in effect, how propaganda works."

A retrospective exhibition of works by Jewish German artist Felix Nussbaum, who was murdered in Auschwitz, is being exhibited alongside the coloring book. MK Emanuel Zissman, chairman of the Knesset Education Committee, who visited the exhibition yesterday, said: "I support the holding of the exhibition so long as an explanation is given to the public. It must be made clear it is intended to portray the means of Nazi propaganda."

"The museum invites everyone who is worried to first visit the exhibit and then to criticize it," acting museum director Yigal Salmona said. "We think it's important to discuss the issue of the Holocaust in the context of a meeting between history and art." Museum officials said other Holocaust victims had not been hurt by the exhibit. An official reported that Fanny Engelrad, of the National Organization of Nazi Prisoners, said after visiting the exhibition: "I can't understand what all the fuss is about."

The management of Yad Vashem also criticized the holding of such an exhibition. "The use of such materials and the interpretation given to them require basic and responsible knowledge, on the one hand, and great public sensitivity on the other, particularly when they are being exhibited in Jerusalem," it said in a statement.

Professor warns of import of exotic diseases

By JUDY SIEGEL

The risk of importing to Israel exotic diseases such as malaria, dengue fever, and even ebola is increasing due to growing tourism by young backpackers and the turning of forests in South America and southern Asia into agricultural land.

This warning was made this week by Prof. Avraham Morag, a senior virologist at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem section, who spoke at a microbiology conference at Bar-Ilan University.

"Israel is one of the cleanest Western countries when it comes to disease, but the massive travel by young Israelis to southern Asia, Africa, and South America is bringing dangerous viral diseases that we were able to overcome 50 years ago," Morag said.

The regions that attract these adventurous young people in the tens of thousands each year are the most risky, due to the local populations' poverty, sub-standard living conditions, and poor hygiene. The backpackers do not stay in hotels, but in low-quality hostels or in the street, thereby increasing their exposure to disease.

Morag said that young people could continue going to these areas, but that they must obtain and heed medical advice to avoid infection. In areas where insect bites transmit viruses, they should cover themselves up with clothing and solid footwear; they should also receive the appropriate vaccinations and take with them prophylactic medication.

Medical advice for travelers is available in hospital clinics in every city; many travel agents refer would-be travelers to these facilities, and district health offices and clinics provide vaccinations. But their advice must be implemented, Morag said. There have already been cases of malaria here, and ebola could have reached Israel via a plane passenger if the area in Africa that was affected was not quarantined.

Dengue fever, a serious viral infection spread in tropical and subtropical regions by a certain type of mosquito that causes rashes, swelling, and muscle pains, is spreading in the US. According to Morag, it reached that country within the last two or three years in rubber tires brought for recycling from Thailand; the mosquitoes hid inside them.

Deforestation in various exotic lands is causing drastic changes in the ecological balance, and pests that spread viruses are coming into contact with agricultural workers brought in to till the land. This poses considerable danger, as new diseases are appearing that would have slumbered if the microbes' environment had remained untouched, Morag said.

MKs salute the trees

By LIAT COLLINS

MKs branched out and let their hair down yesterday in a series of events marking Tu B'Shvat, which is also the Knesset's birthday.

In the morning, MKs led by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon kicked off the events with a tree planting ceremony in the Neveh ilan-Beit Nekofa area of the Jerusalem Corridor, which was devastated by fire in the summer of 1995. Instead of the pines that used to grow there and were particularly susceptible to fire damage, hardier trees like oaks were planted.

In the afternoon, the plenum marked the day with the opening of a photo exhibition on nature and a gathering to mark the centenary of the Farmers Association.

Two of the photos taken by Ariella Shamir were removed from the exhibition at the request of Deputy Housing Minister Meir Porush (United Torah Judaism) who complained that the spots of a tree trunk and branches looked too much like the human body.

Later the MKs met with President Ezer Weizman in a reception at Beil Hanassi and then returned to the Knesset auditorium for a comic and musical entertainment program.

Hanegbi: Zo Artzenu as bad as terrorists

By EVELYN GORDON

There is no conceptual difference between Zo Artzenu's civil disobedience and someone who takes up a gun and shoots someone, Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi said in an interview in the most recent edition of the Bar Association journal, *Halkshva*.

"This is an ideology which constitutes a gross violation of the law and an injury to others which knows no bounds," he said, referring to the organization's attempts to block intercessions during the summer of 1995. "In my eyes, this is an approach which is absolutely forbidden."

"In practice, there is no conceptual difference between Zo Artzenu's protest activities and someone who loads a cartridge into an M-16 and takes other people's lives. Perhaps the severity of the crime is different, but the worldview which produces this abysmal contempt for any law, solely on the basis of ideological reasons, is identical in both cases."

Hanegbi added that he supports the use of administrative detentions against ideological criminals, despite the fact that he considers such detentions reprehensible.

"I think the phenomenon of administrative detentions is unacceptable and intolerable in a democratic society, but there are many other intolerable phenomena that we live with, because there is no alternative," he told interviewer Gidon Allon. "It is impossible to tolerate administrative detentions, because they frustrate the detainee's most elementary attempts to defend himself. He doesn't even know what charge he is defending himself against - and what could be more terrible in a state of law?"

"But on the other hand, administrative detentions have proven to be a very effective tool in the war against terror... If there is an effective tool that can cut down on injury to human life, especially at sensitive times such as what is happening now in Hebron, we have to use it."

However, he continued, ideological crime cannot be fought by the legal system alone, just as the legal system cannot prevent ordinary crime, such as rape or car theft, by itself. Rabbis, he said, bear a special responsibility in this battle, as they have more influence on the religious population than ordinary teachers. While there is nothing wrong with rabbis teaching the crucial importance of the

Land of Israel, he said, they must also teach respect for democracy.

Regarding the Palestinian Authority's failure to extradite terrorists, Hanegbi said he would recommend that the government not take any further steps to implement the Oslo Accords unless the PA begins fulfilling this part of the agreement. "I plan to request the extradition of the murderers of Eyal and Ephraim Tur, soon, and if this request is not acceded to, I will demand a unilateral freeze on all negotiations with the Palestinians," Hanegbi said.

Regarding the abortive appointment of Roni Bar-On as attorney general, Hanegbi said he had learned from this that such an appointment must be brought to the public's attention before it is approved.

Go easy on the fruit and nuts

By JUDY SIEGEL

It may happen only once a year, but gorging yourself on dried fruits and nuts on Tu B'Shvat is a caloric bombshell, according to Weight Watchers. The Israel Consumer Council claims that insect parts and excrement may be hiding among them as well, but the Health Ministry says not to worry.

The 15th day of Shvat, the Jewish New Year of Trees, marks the final wave of the winter rains (at least the weather is supposed to cooperate), when the tree sap becomes active and the bare branches show signs of life. Although not mentioned in the Torah, it was the day on which the Jewish farmer in the Land of Israel estimated his tithes and other obligatory contributions.

The Jewish National Fund is conducting tree-planting ceremonies around the country over the next few days.

Kabbalists who settled here in the 16th century initiated a Tu B'Shvat seder consisting of at least 15 different types of fruit. Since the New Year of

Trees is traditionally the day on which the fates of trees are decided, hassidim often pray that they will have a perfect etrog for Succot in the autumn. According to dieticians at Weight Watchers, dried fruits and nuts are packed with vitamins and minerals, but they are also full of calories, so take it easy. While 100 grams of fresh plums contain 51 calories, 100 grams of dried plums contain 233; the same amount of dried figs or raisins totals 272, apricots, 300, and dates, 262.

Nuts and seeds can be more fattening than a chocolate bar: 100 grams of pecans have 731 calories, compared to 664 for almonds, 591 for peanuts and 572 for shelled sunflower seeds.

Meanwhile, the ICC sent samples of dried fruits to a Volcani Institute lab and found that dried figs frequently were adulterated with excrement of moths and rodents and various dead insects.

However, the ICC, which checked 1,000 pieces of fruit, found mold on only a single date and insects or excrement on only eight pieces of fruit, Health Ministry food service director Dr. Brian Coussin said.

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Due to annual inspection, the cable car at Masada will not operate on Monday, January 27, 1997.

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Quake rocks northwest China

BEIJING (AP) - Two powerful earthquakes struck China's far west province of Xinjiang yesterday, killing at least 12 people and forcing more than 2,500 families to flee their damaged homes in bitter cold, officials said.

At least 27 others were seriously injured in the magnitude 6.4 earthquake at 9:47 a.m. and 6.3 quake a minute later in the region of Jiashi, near the market city of Kashgar, state-run television reported.

Casualty figures were very likely to rise as reports came in from remote quake-hit areas, the office director of the Xinjiang Seismology Bureau said. He refused to give his name.

Army units were standing by to help relief efforts, including setting up tents and temporary shelters for the homeless, he said.

More than 2,500 families in Jiashi County had to flee collapsed or dangerously damaged homes, local officials said.

Some people were expected to spend the night in school buildings sheltering from freezing temperatures, others were being housed in tents, the officials said. The daytime temperature in Jiashi was -8C, they said.

More than 500 one-story buildings collapsed, said an official at the Central Seismology Bureau in Beijing, who gave his surname Tan.

Officials were inspecting remote settlements to determine the full extent of deaths and injuries. The area was recently hit by heavy snow.

The quakes, which rocked Jiashi and Artux, were also felt in Kashgar, the surrounding towns of Wuqia and Akto, and as far as Aksu, 350 km to the northeast, the state-run Xinhua News Agency said.

The tremors knocked down the surrounding wall of the Jiashi police detention center, although inmates remained locked in their cells, said the duty officer at the police station. She refused to give her name.

At least three aftershocks followed the two large quakes, and some older houses collapsed, she said.

"We don't dare go inside our offices, we're all outside," she said. "There was just another shock."

The largest of the aftershocks had a magnitude of 4.5 and further shocks of up to 5.5 were possible, the Xinjiang Seismology Bureau said. The remote desert area, 3,240 km west of Beijing, is prone to quake activity.

Jiashi County, about 70 km east of

Kashgar, was hit last March 19 by a 6.9 magnitude earthquake that killed 28 people. That quake leveled four towns, leaving 170 people injured and 10,000 homeless in severe winter weather.

Kashgar, a bustling commercial center, is an oasis that was a stop along the Silk Road, the trade route that linked China to the Mediterranean as early as 2,000 years ago.

The people of the area are mostly Muslim ethnic minorities, including Uyghurs, Kyrgyz and Tajiks.

The Central Seismology Bureau also reported that a less destructive quake of magnitude 5.0 had shaken a sparsely inhabited region in eastern Tibet.

There were no reports of damage or injuries from that tremor, said another official of the Central Seismology Bureau who gave his name as Tang.

Yeltsin recuperates at country home

MOSCOW (AP) - While Boris Yeltsin recuperated at his country home yesterday, the long-odds attempt to oust him over his poor health moved toward a possible showdown on the floor of parliament.

The president worked on documents on his first full day out of the hospital following a 12-day stay there with pneumonia, the Kremlin said.

Press secretary Sergei Yastrzhembsky told the ITAR-Tass news agency that Yeltsin had no working meetings scheduled but planned some for later in the week. There was no other immediate word on the president's condition.

Meanwhile, Yeltsin's hard-line opponents, hoping to deal him a political blow even if they can't force him from office, cleared a procedural hurdle in the Duma or lower house of parliament.

The Duma Council, composed of faction leaders, agreed to propose that a draft resolution on the issue be included on the agenda of today's full Duma session.

The issue is still not certain to be debated and its prospects for passage are considered slim at best. Even the Duma's legal advisers have said parliament has no legal right to oust Yeltsin for health reasons.

But in Yeltsin's absence, the question of whether he is fit to govern is overshadowing all other issues and forcing lawmakers to take sides in a sensitive debate.

Even Communist lawmaker Viktor Ilyukhin, who is leading the ouster attempt, acknowledges that his resolution is unlikely to pass.

The Duma's deputy speaker, Mikhail Gusev, assailed the resolution as "immoral" and said it "can only cause puzzlement."

"The president just caught a cold and got pneumonia," ITAR-Tass quoted him as saying. "It's absolutely no reason to raise such issues."

When the president left the Central Clinical Hospital on Monday, Yastrzhembsky made it clear that the 65-year-old Russian leader was not on the verge of working full-time again or returning to his Kremlin office.

But he did say Yeltsin intends to adhere to previous scheduling plans: the Commonwealth of Independent States' summit in Moscow that begins Jan. 30, a trip to The Hague, Netherlands, for Feb. 4 talks with European leaders and an early February meeting in Moscow with French President Jacques Chirac.

Serbian Socialists intensify power struggle

BELGRADE (AP) - Several people were injured, one of them seriously, when riot police beat protesters angry over the annulment of local election victories, independent media reported yesterday.

The opposition insists that the Nov. 17 municipal election victories, which also have been confirmed by an international fact-finding mission, be honored by the government of President Slobodan Milosevic.

But in the latest blow to opposition hopes, Serbia's Supreme Court said yesterday Milosevic's Socialist won Smederevska Palanka, a town 80 km southeast of Belgrade. The ruling — the second favoring the Socialists in two days — dimmed chances that Milosevic was ready to give up Belgrade.

The fact-finding mission certified opposition wins in 14 towns, including the capital and Smederevska Palanka. But the Socialists have acknowledged losing only five.

For the first time, taxi drivers joined the protests yesterday, with more than 100 cabbies driving through downtown Belgrade honking their horns. They were greeted by protesting students preparing to spend a third night in the streets in their bid to outlast riot police preventing them from marching.

Ending weeks of relative restraint during 62 consecutive days of protests, police waded into crowds Monday evening swinging batons,



Belgrade students behind a barrier dance in front of policemen yesterday. Protesters had been kept behind the cordon for nearly two days.

beating demonstrators in at least three Belgrade neighborhoods, independent Radio B 92 reported.

The radio said that several people showed up at Belgrade hospitals asking for medical help, including a young man with serious head

injuries. A student was arrested while trying to join the students' protest in downtown Belgrade, the radio said.

The opposition has vowed to sustain its protests until Milosevic recognizes opposition election wins in

the capital, Belgrade, and 13 other cities and towns. Those results have been confirmed by an international fact-finding mission.

The *Telegraf* daily reported yesterday that Milosevic planned to call for new elections in Belgrade

instead of conceding his Socialist defeat. The report could not be independently confirmed.

The opposition, which accuses Milosevic of having robbed them of victory, would likely reject such a plan.

Peru hostage crisis bogged down

LIMA (Reuters) - Peru's five-week hostage crisis ground yesterday with Marxist rebels ignoring calls for the release of their 73 VIP captives and the government refusing to consider demands to free jailed terrorists.

Both sides said they were willing to meet to hammer out a peaceful end to the 35-day standoff but neither was prepared to back down from entrenched positions.

The roughly 15 Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) rebels, who stormed a reception at the Japanese ambassador's home on Dec. 17, demand the release of jailed comrades.

President Alberto Fujimori, who has built much of his popular support on an aggressive offensive against Peru's insurgent groups, insisted the hostage crisis was an isolated event that did not signal a

return to a bloody past.

"The Peruvian people do not want to go backwards nor accept a return of violence and disorder to the country," he said in speeches to welcome two new ambassadors to Peru.

Heavily armed special operations police patrolled near the walls of the diplomatic compound and witnesses said the police had moved closer to the residence. The rebels have responded to previous movements outside the compound with bursts of warning shots from AKM assault rifles.

The rebels originally seized hundreds of guests at the party but gradually freed most, holding 73 they consider the most valuable. These include two Peruvian cabinet ministers, congressmen, army generals, security police chiefs and about two dozen Japanese businessmen and diplomats.

Report: Sweden received more Nazi gold than thought

STOCKHOLM (AP) - Newly examined documents show that Sweden received far more gold from Nazi Germany than was previously known and appeared unconcerned that the gold might have been looted, Swedish media reported yesterday.

After World War II, Sweden examined gold it had received from the Nazis in payment for exports and returned about 13 tons that presumably had been looted, to Belgium and the Netherlands.

But a new investigation shows that Sweden received about 38 tons of gold from the Nazis, according to a report on Swedish radio and in the *Dagens Nyheter* newspaper.

The report was written by radio reporter Goeran Elgenmyr and former ambassador Sven Fredrik Hedin,

who cited documents in Swedish, Swiss and American archives.

Their investigation was separate from a probe launched in late December by the Riksbank, Sweden's central bank, to see if any looted Nazi gold remained in the bank's reserves.

Riksbank spokesman Michael Wallin said the bank could not comment on the report's conclusion, pending the completion of its own investigation, but "we are going to do everything we can to clear this up."

Most of the gold believed to have been looted by the Nazis — from occupied countries, from private holdings, even from fillings on the teeth of concentration camp victims — is believed to have ended up in

Switzerland, but some went to other neutral countries.

According to yesterday's report, then Riksbank director Ivar Rooth wrote a memorandum in 1943 saying he had discussed with Trade Minister Hermann Eriksson the possibility that the gold Sweden received or might receive from Germany had been looted.

The trade minister answered that "the government unanimously had the view that sufficient grounds did not exist to take up the matter for discussion."

Rooth's memo was written after Britain and other Allied countries warned Sweden that the gold it was getting from Germany could be tainted, the report said.

At today's prices of \$353 an ounce, the gold that Sweden reportedly received from the Nazis would be worth nearly \$430 million.

Possible witnesses in Cosby slaying questioned

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Police spent several hours interviewing two possible witnesses to the killing of comedian Bill Cosby's only son after finding them in a suburban drugstore.

Meanwhile, a woman claiming to be the entertainer's illegitimate daughter was arrested in New York along with an accomplice in an unrelated attempt to extort \$40 million from him, federal prosecutors said. Cosby denied her claim.

Ammunition, 22, and Jose Medina, 54, were arrested at a New York law firm representing Cosby after signing a purported \$24 million settlement to end Ms. Jackson's threat to go to tabloid newspapers, US Attorney Mary White said. Medina was to write her story.

In Los Angeles, police Cmdr. Tim McBride planned to issue a statement today regarding what, if anything, investigators learned from questioning the unidentified pair who may have seen Ennis Cosby's slaying. They were not considered suspects, police said.

Cosby, a 27-year-old graduate student at Columbia University in New

York, was shot to death Thursday while changing a flat tire in what police suspect was an attempted robbery. He was visiting Southern California while on winter break.

The two possible witnesses were picked up at a drug store in the Los Angeles suburb of Torrance, said Torrance police Lt. Steve Gilliam, who declined to say how authorities located the two or disclose details about how they may have seen the slaying.

Gilliam also would not say whether one of those questioned was a man depicted in a police sketch of a witness whom authorities have been seeking.

KCBS-TV and the Los Angeles Daily News reported that officers went to the drug store after a neighborhood resident called police and reported seeing a blue hatchback that matched the description and license plate of a car driven by the witness shown in the sketch.

Police said there was no connection between the slaying and the arrests in New York, even though both suspects in the extortion case were from the Los Angeles area.

Envoy denies US threatened S. Africa over Syria arms sale

JOHANNESBURG (AP) - US Ambassador James Joseph tried yesterday to quell a dispute between Washington and President Nelson Mandela's government over a possible South African arms deal with Syria.

Joseph, speaking at a Rotary Club lunch, refused to comment on South Africa's proposed sale of \$650 million in tank firing systems to Syria, which has drawn strong US opposition.

But he said differences of opinion were likely to occur at times between even the strongest of allies, and he listed in detail the support that the United States has given South Africa since the end of apartheid.

Washington opposes the arms sale because Syria is on the State

Department's list of nations that sponsor terrorism. US officials also fear the deal could alter the Mideast power balance and threaten peace initiatives involving Israel.

Mandela became angry when US spokesmen criticized the possible deal and warned of aid cuts if it went through. He and other top African National Congress officials have accused Washington of hypocrisy, saying the US helps arm and support Israel but tries to inhibit trade involving other Middle East countries.

Joseph denied that any US officials threatened South Africa, saying government spokesmen merely noted that US law requires some forms of aid to be cut to countries that sell weapons to nations on the list of terrorism sponsors.

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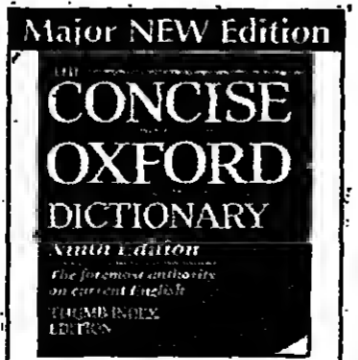


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Priebke lawyers seek his freedom

ROME (AP) - Lawyers for a former Nazi officer accused of war crimes say they plan to appeal a court's decision to keep him in jail until a new trial is held.

Former SS Capt. Erich Priebke is accused in the 1944 slayings of 335 civilians near Rome.

A military court in August convicted Priebke of taking part in the slayings, but acquitted him of acting with premeditation and cruelty, a circumstance that would have been necessary to override Italy's statute of limitation on murder.

But he remains in jail because of a request by Germany for his extradition and an appeals court decision that he be tried again in Italy.

His lawyers sought his release from jail pending trial, but a Rome court denied the request yesterday. Giosue Nasso, one of Priebke's lawyers, called the decision "political" and said he would appeal.

No trial will be set until a battle over jurisdiction is settled between civilian and military courts. A hearing on that issue is scheduled Feb. 10.

Russia

France

Islamic

Another

kill

MOSCOW (AP) - Children will be the southern region of the Russian Federation giving investigators reported.

He told police donated 3,000 rubles to a 12-year-old girl.

Burnev, who donated the money, missed the train.

The region of Moscow, it was reported.

The report mentioned a 12-year-old girl.

سازمان چاپ

Yeltsin operates at country home

Yeltsin operates at country home

hostage chipped down

denies US threat over Syria

Pro... his...



Back on dry land, in a tangle Steve Fossett gestures in front of his hanging balloon in the northern Indian village of Nonkhar yesterday. The balloon got entangled in a tree during landing the day before, at the end of his six-day non-stop voyage from the US. Traveling over 10,000 miles, Fossett broke his own world record for distance and endurance in a hot-air balloon, but he could not achieve his aim of circumnavigating the globe after he ran short of fuel.

Clinton sheds tuxedo for business suit

WASHINGTON - Warm by a night of inaugural revelry, President Clinton changed from tuxedo to business suit yesterday and plunged into a second term that confronts him with ethical, budgetary and international problems. "It's better the second time around," a jubilant Clinton declared only a few hours into the coveted second term that has eluded Democrats for six decades. "We know that we can make America better. And especially now that we know it, we have no excuse," Clinton told revelers as he and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton raced through 15 inaugural balls and got back to the White House by 1:40 a.m. — two full hours ahead of schedule. Republicans, who will have a great deal to say about how much better Clinton's second term will be, applauded the tone of bipartisanship that Clinton wove into his remarks on the first day of his second term, but said they would believe it when they saw it. "Only time will tell whether or not he means it or it was rhetoric," said Rep. Bob Livingston of Louisiana, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. Clinton, who has done some reading on the largely dismal record of second-term presidents, planned to begin work yesterday fighting the Republican push for a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. He also was to urge tougher campaign finance rules during a speech to the Democratic National Committee, a group basking in presidential victory but staring at the prospect of a Republican-dominated Congress poised to investigate its acceptance — and return — of foreign campaign contributions. Republicans had problems of their own, as the House was to vote yesterday on a resolution to reprimand House Speaker Newt Gingrich for ethical misconduct and assess a \$300,000 penalty. Clinton waltzed into the wee hours of yesterday as he celebrated the start of his second term by making cameo appearances at no less than the 15 black tie inaugural balls. Dressed in a double-breasted tuxedo, with his wife Hillary swathed in an embroidered gold tulle gown designed by Oscar de la Renta, Clinton spent the evening dashing from one party to the next to thank the people who re-elected him last November. Beaming with delight, the president told supporters that his pleasure at his second inauguration had far exceeded that of his first four years ago. "All during this day people have been coming up to me and saying, 'how does it feel the second time around?'" Clinton said at a rowdy celebration for young people at Washington's Postal Square building. "And I said: better." He used the line all night long, never failing to draw laughter and cheers. Despite waiting hours to see Clinton, and paying \$150 for the privilege of attending a ball, the crowds were rapturous as they feted the first Democratic president in 60 years to win a second term at the White House. "I just love him," said Edith Henig, who came from North Miami Beach, Florida, to see Clinton at the Florida inaugural ball. Florida, which had last voted for a Democratic president in 1976, went for Clinton in 1996. "I actually voted Democratic," laughed Robin Madison, a Republican from Las Vegas, Nevada, a bedrock conservative state. Asked why, she replied with a single word: "Clinton." Appearing delighted, if somewhat wan as the night wore on, the Clintons danced with one another at most of the balls. Although their standard dance number was a slow waltz to a recording of Johnny Mathis' "Unforgettable," they also enjoyed a stunning range of live music. The president turned down several opportunities to play the saxophone, despite the pleas of the crowds, but he did indulge in a brief moment of banging on a set of bongo drums.

Russia takes tough line on NATO

MOSCOW (Reuters) - A day after high level talks between Russia and NATO, Moscow reiterated its tough public line against the Western alliance's expansion yesterday but said negotiations on a possible deal would continue next month. "We preserve and will continue to preserve our negative attitude toward the expansion of NATO," Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Tarasov said. "It is clear to any unbiased observer that the alliance's expansion creates a danger of setting up new dividing lines in Europe," he told a news briefing. "It may lead to what we were all hoping to get rid of with the end of the Cold War." NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana and Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov met for five hours at an official residence outside Moscow on Monday. Moscow on Monday said only that talks were "useful." But on yesterday it made clear that its principal opposition to NATO's plans to take in new members from the former Warsaw Pact in eastern and central Europe remained unchanged. "We directly said in the course of the discussions that our talks with NATO...cannot be viewed as a type of compensation for our agreement to the expansion of NATO," Tarasov said. Nonetheless, the spokesman said a timetable for further Moscow-NATO discussions was agreed upon during the Monday negotiations. "As far as I know, the next talks will be next month," he said but gave no further details. Officials in Brussels, where NATO has its headquarters, agreed that the two sides remained divided on key issues. "We have a long way to go, we are very far apart on a number of issues," said one senior official. NATO is expected to issue formal invitations to the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland at its next summit scheduled for July in Madrid. NATO officials have made clear that Moscow's objections could not change the schedule and enlargement will start off even if talks with Russia do not bear fruit by the Madrid summit. Officials in Brussels said Solana presented detailed proposals on a permanent consultative mechanism on offer to help Russia accept the alliance's expansion. "We wanted to show we had specific proposals, not just ideas. We think Primakov was impressed we had done our homework," said one senior official. Russia confirmed that Solana did not try to stroomgarm Primakov into backing NATO plans. "From the side of the NATO general secretary there was no attempt to carry out the discussion in a format of blackmail," Tarasov said. During talks with Poland's ambassador to Moscow on yesterday, Russia's Security Council Secretary Ivan Rybkin said that Russia should take part in any new European security structure, his press office said. "The countries of Europe should be in a unified security system, and Russia is deeply concerned about its structure," he said.

France holds 22 Islamic suspects

MARSEILLE (Reuters) - French anti-terrorist police detained 22 suspected Islamic militants in dawn raids in the Paris area, eastern France and the Riviera yesterday, the Interior Ministry said. The ministry said in a statement that police officers and members of the DST counter-espionage service carried out the swoops in two investigations led by France's chief anti-terrorism investigator, Judge Jean-Louis Bruguiere, and his colleague Judge Laurence Le Vert. Fifteen people were detained, and fake identity papers and documents were seized in the Paris area, the Mediterranean port city of Marseille and in the Riviera, capital Nice in an inquiry into alleged criminal conspiracy with a terrorist aim. In a separate investigation in the Paris area, Marseille and in eastern France, seven people were detained on the orders of Le Vert. The ministry said the raids were linked to a German investigation into a Muslim fundamentalist network, adding that German police had also carried out raids and searches yesterday. Justice sources said the arrests, during which police had to use force to blast their way into one house, were not tied to a bomb attack on a Paris underground commuter train on December 4 which was blamed on Algerian Muslim rebels. Late last month, Algeria's most ruthless rebels, the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), threatened attacks against France in a letter to President Jacques Chirac. The GIA has been blamed for a wave of bomb attacks which killed eight people in France in 1995. Foreign Ministry spokesman Jacques Rummelhardt voiced "shock and concern" at what it called a flare-up of blind and wild violence in Algeria coinciding with the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

Another Rostov serial killer caught

MOSCOW (AP) - A man accused of raping and murdering at least six children will soon go on trial in the third serial murders case recently in the southern region of Rostov-on-Don, a newspaper reported yesterday. Roman Burtsev, 25 was arrested last July and confessed to his crimes, giving investigators a detailed description of them, the daily Izvestia reported. He told police he often had felt remorse and on one occasion even donated 5,000 rubles (90 cents) for the funerals of one of his victims, a 12-year-old girl. Burtsev, who is divorced and has a 10-month-old son, said he committed the murders out of a fear of being punished for his sex crimes. The regional court in Rostov-on-Don, about 1,000 km south of Moscow, is prepared to open hearings on the case soon, Izvestia said. The report came just days after another local resident, Vladimir Mukhamkin, 36, pleaded guilty to murdering eight women and was sentenced to death by the city court.

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Overpaid servants

KNESSET members have been quick to jump on the revelations in the annual Public Bodies Salaries Report, which blew the whistle on dozens of public sector officials receiving astronomical salaries in violation of existing guidelines. But while the MKs justifiably vent their outrage at the government corporations and municipalities which abuse their access to the public trough, they should also consider the recent increases in their own bloated salaries.

Yesterday, a Knesset committee voted to delay for two more months a 6.9 percent increase in their salaries that was to take effect in October last year. At that time, Knesset members raised their salaries by a whopping 33 percent, while forgoing outside income. If the latest raise takes effect, an MK's gross income will be about NIS 22,000 per month, not including numerous other perks, such as free mail and phone calls, rent and car allowances, special pension benefits and so on.

According to a comparison published in *Yedioth Aharonot*, Knesset salaries are about the level of their counterparts in France and Germany, where average salaries are 50 to 60 percent higher than in Israel. In most Western countries, the salaries of elected and other public officials are respectable, but lower than what the same people would likely earn in the private sector.

Given the power, prestige, and contacts that public officials enjoy, it is questionable that there is any long-term financial sacrifice entailed in exchange for the privilege of representing the public. Most Western parliamentarians can parlay their experience into more lucrative pursuits when they leave office. In Israel, however, public officials can have the voter's cake and eat it too—they are paid so much that the money alone might attract some to public office.

This is not a healthy situation if the term "public service" is to have any meaning. Simply put, MKs should not be increasing their own salaries, especially at a time when the budget is being cut. Nor should they be increasing their own budgets, such as the decision just taken to grant each Knesset member \$10,000 a year to rent office space in their home towns.

The idea behind the new offices, that Knesset members should be in closer contact with their constituents, is in principle a good one. The only problem is that in Israel, Knesset members do not have constituents because they do not represent a particular area, except informally. In the US or Britain, voters who want help in navigating the vast government bureaucracy or who wish to complain about government practices, can approach a specific parliamentarian who represents their district, and who depends on their vote to stay in office. In Israel, MKs cannot be held accountable individually, except by voters in the party primaries.

The direct representation system may not be applicable to a small country like Israel on a wholesale basis. Such a system does, however, make it much harder for the legislature to take outrageous and unpopular actions—such as raising its own wages while cutting government benefits for everyone else—at will and without consequences.

In the next round of political reform in Israel, it would behoove Knesset members to make themselves more accountable. Until then, the public will have to rely on each MK's commitment to setting a personal example for the nation. When such a positive example is lacking, it is not so surprising that other much less accountable public officials even more flagrantly abuse the power to spend the public's money on themselves.

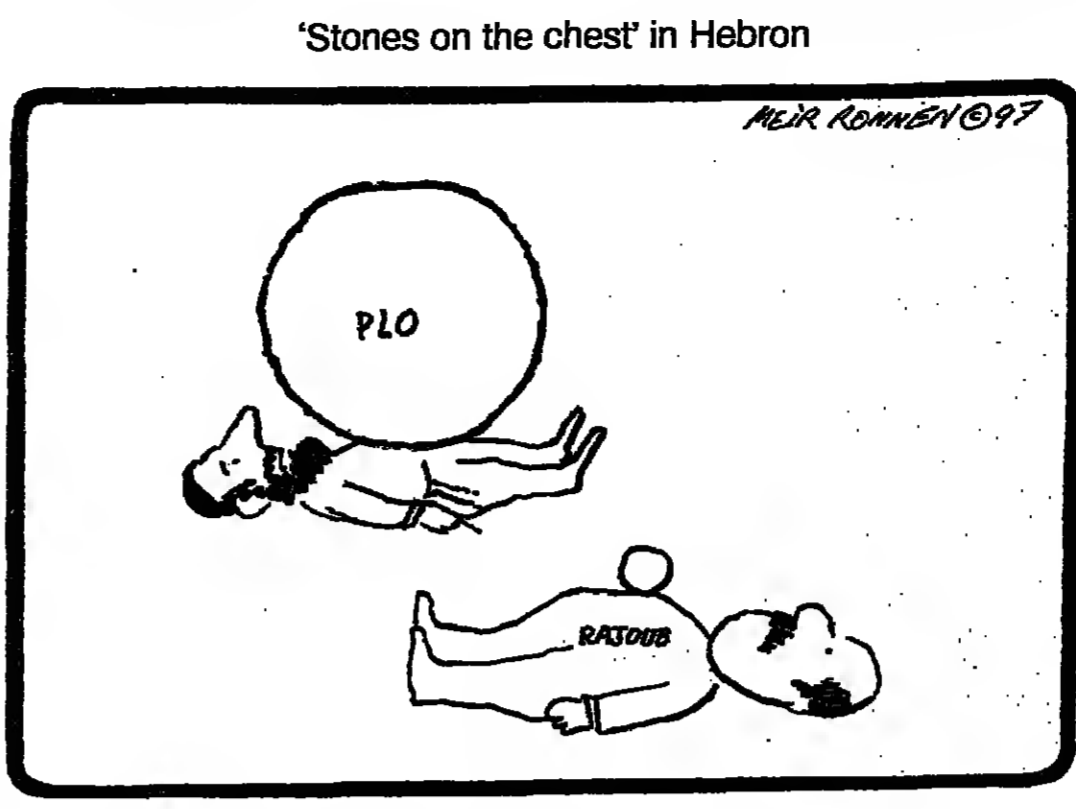
For example, Treasury Wages and Labor Agreements director Yossi Kucik's report found that the head of one government-run insurance company earned the mind-boggling sum of NIS 67,400 per month. The top 18 officials in the Israel Electric Corporation earned an average of NIS 41,310 per month. All-in-all, the proportion of government entities that reported salaries in excess of the required level went up from 53 percent in 1994 to 62 percent in 1995.

No sanctions were taken against the officials responsible for these violations last year, and it remains to be seen whether the tough talk in the Knesset and the Finance Ministry will change anything soon. It is certainly reasonable to cap the salaries of officials in government companies at the level of Supreme Court justices, as one Knesset bill would dictate.

There is no doubt that many public officials are overworked, not overpaid. In certain cases, the government must pay salaries competitive with the private sector to keep good people for a reasonable time. And not all Knesset members agree that raising their own salary is the right example to set.

It is laudable that some MKs and factions, such as Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky's Yisrael B'Aliya party, are considering donating the most recent salary increase to charity. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu himself wrote to Knesset Committee chairman Rafael Pinhasi requesting that he work to defeat the proposed salary increase, and pledged to donate his increase to charity if it comes into effect.

But in the end, legal mechanisms are a poor substitute for the power that market forces can have to protect the taxpayer. Corporate executives may well be overpaid in the private sector, but the price is paid by the stockholders, not the public at large. The ultimate protection against "public servants" abusing the people's hard earned money is to take those funds away from them. Once again, the leaders of government companies are providing the best arguments for privatization of their own fiefdoms.



The Beilin-Eitan endeavor

With the signing of the Hebron accord, it is worth looking at the Beilin-Eitan agreement, the full name of which is National Agreement Toward Permanent Status Discussions with the Palestinians. These are due to start on March 17.

Teams of prominent Likud and Labor MKs, about eight of each, formulated the text of the Likud-Labor agreement, which is still not final. It will be submitted to Binyamin Netanyahu and Shimon Peres, but the prime minister has already expressed reservations over it.

The document deals with borders, security, the Palestinian entity, Jerusalem, refugees, water and good neighborliness. No agreement was reached on some crucial issues.

Two options have been left open on the Palestinian entity: It will be either an independent state, or an enlarged autonomy.

The options on absorption of refugees by the Palestinian entity are either for this to be a matter for the entity to decide, or for the issue to be decided jointly with Israel for a period of 15 years.

There are also two options on the Jordan valley.

Looking at examples of agreed points, the clause on settlements first declares that one will be uprooted. Most of the settlers and settlements will live under Israeli sovereignty, with territorial integrity preserved between the settlements and the state of Israel.

Settlements not annexed will enjoy special and agreed arrangements, including Israeli citizenship and free access to Israel.

On security, the Palestinian entity will be demilitarized, and will not have an army or sign pacts

DAN LEON

hostile to Israel. The Jordan River will be Israel's security border. Jerusalem will remain Israel's united capital; the capital of the Palestinian entity will be outside the present municipal borders of the city. Palestinians in Jerusalem will enjoy responsibility for managing their own lives in the city.

It achieves Labor-Likud reciprocity. But what about reciprocity with the Palestinians?

ON THE basis of these examples from the 800-word document, what is its value?

After the Hebron agreement, Foreign Minister David Levy called it "the best possible agreement. Remember that we are not conducting negotiations with ourselves."

Yet this is precisely what Yossi Beilin and Michael Eitan did. An agreement resulting from their negotiating with themselves may serve the interest of their parties, but its contribution to the peace process is highly questionable. After all, however the Israeli political map looks, peace depends less on relations between Likud and Labor than on those between Israel and the Palestinians.

For example, is there a single Palestinian from Yasser Arafat on

down who will agree to anything less than statehood? Who will give up the concept of East Jerusalem as a capital?

Who will disagree with Abu Mazen's views on settlement, the starting point being that "the settlers are living on conquered land, and their very existence is illegal and for us unacceptable?"

The Beilin-Eitan agreement has achieved a maximum degree of Labor-Likud reciprocity at the expense of facilitating a minimum degree of Israeli-Palestinian reciprocity.

As one of the architects of the Oslo accords of 1993 with the Palestinians, Beilin agreed to honor "mutual legitimate and political rights, peaceful coexistence, mutual dignity and security and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace."

With their expectations for such values from 1993 onward largely unfulfilled by the Netanyahu government, the Palestinians are unlikely to find much consolation in the 1997 Beilin-Eitan document. A national unity government may or may not be on the agenda, and in any case a candidate for the Labor leadership may want to correct his over-dovish image.

But whatever domestic party political interests it serves, the document betrays the spirit of compromise so vital for the peace process.

Anyone seeing it as a series of genuine guidelines for peace should recall what Bertrand Russell wrote in 1928 in *Sceptical Essays*: "It is undesirable to believe a proposition when there is no ground whatever for supposing it is true."

The writer is co-managing editor of the Palestine-Israel Journal.

Yuval Ne'eman fits the bill

The time has come for a government reshuffle. Although the prime minister has been congratulating himself on achieving two important objectives in half a year—the Hebron agreement and the cuts in the state budget—the experience of seven months must have shown him that the makeup of the government falls below the zenith of excellence Netanyahu vowed at its inauguration.

The two professors he promised to appoint as justice and finance ministers are not in the government. And the last few days have seen another reduction in quality with the resignation of Ze'ev Binyamin Begin, universally regarded as a person of significance, and as a worthy opponent by those who disagree with him.

It has been reported that the prime minister is delaying appointing a new science minister until the chances of setting up a national unity government become clearer.

This provides a good excuse for postponing the choice between Shaul Amur, Michael Eitan and Sylvan Shalom, the three MKs competing for the job; but it is highly doubtful that we will in fact see a national unity government in the near future, and so we could find ourselves with a new science minister at any time.

The candidates for the empty seat at the government's table are able and dedicated party members, each successful in his own field; but it is doubtful that any one of the three is capable of filling the vacuum left by Begin's resignation.

The prime minister would have an easier time with any of them than he did with Begin. They wouldn't question his decisions, criticize his actions or argue over every step of the complex negotiations with Yasser Arafat that await us over the upcoming stages of the withdrawal from Judea and Samaria. They certainly wouldn't emulate the Roman leader who called daily for the destruction of Carthage.

Begin never tired of reiterating

MOSHE ZAK

the vital need to have the anti-Israel clauses in the Palestinian Covenant unconditionally annulled.

Yes, Netanyahu will certainly have it easier; but the intellectual weight and challenge Begin represented will be sorely missed.

THERE IS another aspect to the question of replacing the science

Benny Begin's empty cabinet seat can be adequately filled—but not by any of the MKs vying for it

minister: professional qualifications.

The health minister doesn't have to be a doctor, and the trade and industry minister needn't be an industrialist. But the justice minister has always been someone with the appropriate background. This should apply to the science minister too.

The science ministry has never been accorded its rightful status. Hamstrung by a skimpy budget, it has become a small and largely neglected ministry, in spite of a general acknowledgment that science is the key to the country's development.

It requires an imaginative incumbent, someone with extensive mental horizons who can communicate with the world scientific community.

One once had just such a science minister: Yuval Ne'eman. We need him again.

Ne'eman should be returned to the position, even though he resigned from every political framework after quitting the government in 1992, and is not a party member. He is, on the other hand, a ranking member of the world's scientific elite. None of those currently vying

for the appointment would be insulted were the prime minister to choose a distinguished physicist as science minister; such a step would also prevent any two of the candidates being slighted by the appointment of the third.

Ne'eman as a minister would restore the equilibrium that has been destroyed by Begin's stepping down. The government needs the sort of balance between opposing views that can help it come to decisions, not merely through a show of hands, but through an exchange of views.

I have not raised another possibility: appointing Moshe Arens, who could certainly contribute much to rehabilitating the government. The reason is that I believe that, in a large-scale government reshuffle, Arens would deserve a central portfolio, something bigger than the science ministry.

Ne'eman and Arens are both experienced diplomats. Had they had taken part in the negotiations for the so-called Hebron agreement, it would, in all likelihood, contain fewer loopholes.

In the final analysis, the convoluted negotiations preceding the agreement were not conducted by Netanyahu and Yasser Arafat, but by a group of American Jews (Deans Ross, Aaron David Miller, A. Schwartz and Martin Indyk) and a group of Israeli Jews (Dan Shomron, Dore Gold, Yitzhak Molcho and Shaul Mofaz).

I cannot help being reminded of the first trade agreement signed between Israel and Poland, back in 1949.

When the agreement was brought to Jerusalem for approval, one minister remarked that "the Jews negotiating for Poland outwitted the Jews representing Israel."

One cannot escape the basic fact that Arens and Ne'eman know the quirks of US diplomacy, and consequently would treat cordially agreements with all the necessary caution.

The writer, a veteran journalist, comments on current affairs.

Pen power

D'VORA BEN SHAUL

Have you looked at the "Situations Vacant" advertisements in the newspapers lately?

If you have, you probably noted that a majority of these ads request that applications be submitted in handwriting.

On the surface of it, this seems rather strange in the electronic age, when almost everything we write gets done on a word processor, or at least a modern typewriter.

After all, most of the positions advertised require a university degree—or, at the very least, graduation from a technical college, so obviously there is no need to check whether the applicant is literate.

The reason for the handwriting requirement is this: Your prospective employer wants to submit your handwritten job application to a graphologist as his choice for analysis.

On the basis of this analysis you will either be granted a personal interview, or sent a form letter saying that the position is no longer available.

In many cases you will not even be considered for the position, no matter what your experience, education or expertise—because the graphologist didn't think you would be satisfactory.

This is, incidentally, true not only for job applications, but also for applications to join a moshav or kibbutz.

Now there is no reason to denigrate graphology as such. A number of careful assessments by university psychologists have shown that, in the hands of a competent graphologist, the results of analyzing a handwriting specimen

A person's future may lie in the hands of an incompetent graphologist

are about as accurate as ordinary psychometric testing, without interviewing the candidate. But the operative factors are far different.

In the first place, the competence of the graphologist needs to be assumed. There are qualified graphologists in Israel—but there are also many with no training at all. In fact, anyone wishing to hang out a sign may do so.

One graphologist in Jerusalem claims competence on the grounds of having spent 25 years working in the personnel department of a government authority. After retiring early, she hung out her shingle.

"Over the years," she explains, "I learned to evaluate employees by their written applications and complaints."

NOTHING unusual about this, unfortunately. Most practitioners of alternative medicine—naturopaths, homeopaths, acupuncturists, reflexologists and all the rest, including chiropractors—are unlicensed.

The basic difference is that if you go for psychometric testing (always licensed), or opt for alternative medicine, the decision is yours alone. But your handwriting gets submitted to a graphologist without your being asked, sometimes without your even knowing it.

It is true that many firms that routinely use a graphologist instead of interviewing candidates maintain that "we have done this for years, and have always been satisfied with the results."

This may be true. But suppose I, as an employer, told you that I have always hired only Ashkenazi Jews, or only men, and have always been satisfied. Wouldn't I be laying myself open to the accusation of consistent discrimination against women and Sephardim, who might have proved equally satisfactory employees?

Graphologists must either be licensed according to their level of training and ability, or they have no place in a reputedly open, democratic society. It's as simple as that.

It is totally unacceptable that your handwriting or mine can be submitted for analysis without our consent, or without our having the right to approve the choice of graphologist. Something as everyday as being turned down for a job could alter the course of a person's life.

The law after all, requires informed consent prior to even standard medical procedures.

Unless graphologists submit themselves to recognized supervision, I suggest they be written off as expert opinion in the matter of personality and capability assessment.

The writer is a regular columnist for The Jerusalem Post.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

OPPORTUNISTIC COURSE

Sir, — The Eskimos put their elderly parents out on the ice. They don't harm them, they don't kill them. A certain but slow death by freezing is what is planned for the departing generation. It's handled somewhat differently in the Israeli political arena. The victim chosen for public liquidation is inundated with words of appreciation, while—in classic Shakespearean fashion—they thrust a dagger in his back.

That is what happened to Shimon Peres too. It's as if the story of Caesar and Brutus were being repeated in the Labor Party arena. The comparison is particularly fitting since Shimon Peres was the one who really nurtured the unbridledly ambitious chief of staff Ehud Barak when he was still in uniform.

It came as no surprise when, after retiring from the army, Barak landed straight in the center of the Labor Party. Not only Rabin and Peres, but also the various ranks of power-hungry members of the party apparatus saw in him the Labor Party's savior.

Ehud Barak has remained faithful to his notoriously opportunistic and openly egocentric course. Despite this, no one dreamed that he would be the one to tear down ripe fruit, this Gulliver with Napoleonesque mannerisms has the magnetism to also "mislead" a majority of the country in order to serve his own selfish purposes.

DAN OFRY,
Editor-in-chief
Uj Keles
Tel Aviv.

the frightened Lilliputian dwarfs to beat a hasty retreat from Shimon Peres's sinking ship and quickly dance around the former chief of staff, who takes such care to keep his true ideology a secret and whom Haim Ramon appropriately dubbed Gulliver in the Land of Lilliput.

The big question is whether oow, after the party has fallen into Ehud Barak's lap like so much ripe fruit, this Gulliver with Napoleonesque mannerisms has the magnetism to also "mislead" a majority of the country in order to serve his own selfish purposes.

DAN OFRY,
Editor-in-chief
Uj Keles
Tel Aviv.

JORDAN IS PALESTINE

Sir, — In a recent article about David Levy's visit to Jordan, you state that Jordan is concerned that "Jordan is Palestine" will be revived.

In my opinion, this would not be a bad thing. Negotiations with the Arabs started from the premise that Palestine only extended up to the River Jordan. The Arabs at least seem to know that Palestine as defined by the League of Nations Mandate extended up to the border of Iraq. In other words, Jordan was founded entirely on territory designated as a Jewish homeland.

Palestine has already been divided between Jew and Arab. A Palestinian Arab state already exists; it is called Jordan.

Stating that Jordan is Palestine is not a threat to Jordan's integrity, but an attempt to get a historical injustice against the Jewish people recognized. The Arabs must be wondering why we haven't bothered to use this as a starting negotiating position. Many Jews wonder the same.

URI RABIN

ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

Sir, — Although the news wasn't good, it was encouraging to see Philip Warburg's article of January 1 on Israel's population problem. It is definitely time to break the taboo and begin to face our environmental problems seriously.

Politicians are working hard to ensure a stable political future, but what about our environmental future? Quality of life in Israel must not be measured in political terms alone. To wait till we have peace before we deal with the many environmental problems we face is to wait too long.

The Jerusalem Post can help by printing more articles like the one by Philip Warburg to raise our awareness and also by offering us information on existing environmental organizations, projects and programs.

Grass-roots environmentalism must take greater action in Israel before there is no grass left.

RAHEL KIMA

DISENCHANTED

Sir, — A disconcerting drift in editorial policy in favor of Palestinianism erodes the value of *The Jerusalem Post*. I wish to know of things Israeli, of Eretz Yisrael, of biblical lands, of Jews and things Jewish or Israel. If the PA comes into play, it ought to be through the lens of Israeli foreign and domestic policy. Instead, I find an increasing voice given to Arab, Palestinian, PA and Islamic propaganda. I do not expect this paper to be as swayed as is Western media. I can find Madison Avenue PR for the PA in any Arab or Western media.

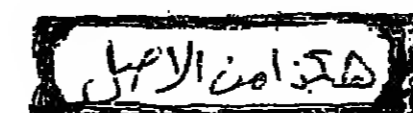
I suggest you shed the liberal "house Jew" intolerance of Israeli priorities. Peace does not depend, and has never depended, upon Israel, though it is its fondest hope. Not only tolerance, but support should be in spades for politicians with priorities on things Israeli. Stand up for the competence and integrity of sovereign Israel as a modern-day miracle, of prophesy come true in our generation.

L.D. HIGLEY

Upland, California.

Redbridge, Essex.

Jerusalem.





Dankner, Group head Shmuel Dankner (right) shields visiting Polish Prime Minister Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz from the rain.

GRAPEVINE

A gathering of vultures

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

How quickly the vultures gathered to stake their claims to the Science Ministry. Likud faction head Michael Eitan went so far as to organize a 200-member support lobby at a rally at Likud headquarters. Fellow MK and Migdal Ha'enek mayor Shaul Amor (whose name has been mentioned as a possible successor to President Ezer Weizman) is also angling for the post vacated by Benny Begin. So is yet another Likud MK, Shivan Shalom. And former Likud MK and Ariel local council chairman Ron Nahman is also reportedly interested in the portfolio. Meanwhile Begin has given up his official car and is back to riding the buses.

IT WAS a hit-and-run affair when Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy came to address the Metzua workshop on killing speed-not-kids. Levy, who was in a hurry to get back to the Knesset, gave a short address, and then apologized that he had to leave. "Drive slowly," cautioned Elihu Richter, the head of the Betis Program in Injury Prevention at Hebrew-University-Hadassah School of Public Health and Community Medicine.

AT A farewell dinner co-hosted in his honor by the Israel Manufacturers Association, the Israel-Poland Chamber of Commerce and investment tycoon Shmuel Dankner, Polish Prime Minister Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz vied with Dankner and IMA president Dan Propper to see who could tell the funniest joke.

First-in-line Propper told the tale of the hapless Jew caught by the ancient Romans and brought to the arena where the emperor took pleasure in watching lions devouring prisoners. When the lion tried to bite the Jew, he whispered something in his ear, and the lion backed off. Another more ferocious lion was brought in and the same thing happened. An even more ferocious lion took its place and again, the Jew whis-

pered in his ear. By oow, the emperor, more curious than angry, asked what the Jew had said to the lions. The reply, "After dinner, there will be speeches." When it was Dankner's turn, he said that on his way to Jerusalem, the Polish prime minister had stopped in Rome and visited the pope. On seeing a red telephone in the corner, he asked whether he could use it. "Of course, my son," said the pope.

"Where is it connected to?" persisted the prime minister. "Doo! you know that you're in the Holy City?" was the enigmatic reply.

The prime minister made use of the phone and at the end of a satisfying conversation offered to pay. On asking the cost of the call, he was told \$100.

The following day, he visited the chief rabbi in Jerusalem, saw a similar red phone in the corner, and went through the same procedure as he had in Rome. But when he asked how much he should pay, he was told that it was nothing.

Who he insisted however that he must pay for the call, the sum quoted was ten cents. "How come it's so cheap?" he asked. "I don't know the rates in Poland," replied the rabbi, "but you just made a local call."

Cimoszewicz earned the heartiest round of applause when he related the story of three Jewish tailors competing in the same street. One day, one of them decided that it was time to advertise his wares and put out a sign "Here is the best tailor in Europe."

Not to be outdone, the second tailor put out a sign "Here is the best tailor in the universe."

The third, and apparently the more realistic of the three put out a sign "Here is the best tailor in the street." The moral of the story, according to Cimoszewicz, is that "Poland is the best tailor in the street in central and eastern Europe."

Referring to an earlier remark by Propper that "we in Israel have had almost as many Polish prime ministers as Poland," Cimoszewicz quipped: "In Poland you will find that there were more Jewish prime minis-

ters of Poland than Polish prime ministers of Israel."

But Propper reserved the final laugh for himself, with the story of an Israeli and a Greek arguing about who had the oldest and most advanced civilization. "We had telephones in ancient Greece," boasted the Greek. "They found wires near the Acropolis."

The Israeli gave a derisive snort. "That's nothing. We already had cellular phones."

"How do you know?" asked the Greek.

"Because they didn't find any wires," retorted the Israeli.

ON A slightly more serious note, it is interesting to view Jewish problems through ooo-Jewish eyes. Piotr Paszkowski, who spent five years as an interpreter for president Lech Walesa and was a member of the Cimoszewicz entourage, revealed that several rabbis are involved in a legal battle in Poland as to which of them has the authority to give kasbrut approval to vodka. "What the Poles can't understand, he said, is 'who has the right to kosherness and what makes vodka kosher.'"

"THEY'RE IDENTICAL twins, but their barber is not identical," said playwright and narrator Dan Almagor of musicians Udi and David Zohar, the 15-year-old sons of klezmerist and Israel Philharmonic Orchestra clarinetist Israel Zohar. Appearing with him and their father in the updated version of the long running smash hit *Once there was a Hassid*, one of the boys has shoulder-length brown hair and the other has a blond crew-cut.

AFTER 14 years of resisting the proposals of her live-in companion Kurt Russell, Goldie Hawn, one of the stars of *The First Wives Club*, has finally said "yes" in deference to her mother's dying wish that Hawn and Russell do the knot. With two failed marriages behind her, Hawn was reluctant to risk a hat trick, believing that a gold wedding band spelled the end rather than the beginning of a relationship. Now, however, she's prepared to be proved wrong.

Opening up to mourning

An upcoming workshop on dealing with death will introduce healthier reactions to loss, Amy Klein reports

When Shula Keller first heard the woman screaming in front of the audience she found it so unbearable she had to leave. Keller was taking part in her first Loss, Death and Transition (LTD) workshop - a seminar meant to help resolve buried feelings of anger, resentment and grief related to loss.

Five years and three seminars later, not only has Keller resolved many of her own hidden feelings that allow her to listen to others without leaving the room, but she is bringing one of these workshops to Israel. From February 21 to 25, the seminar entitled "Dealing with Loss" (*"Hashiva Habaita"*) will take place at Kibbutz Tuval.

The seminar is primarily devoted to feelings associated with death and loss. For the Holocaust survivors, cancer patients, social workers and medical professionals who will be attending the seminar, these uncomfortable issues are often avoided and ignored.

The seminar's sessions and workshops focus on resolving buried feelings such as anger and dis-

pointment that can build up long after an event occurred. The idea is that by expressing these emotions, whether by screaming in front of the group or silently beating a pillow in private, it frees a person to be themselves and less reactive to other people.

"Even if you are in mourning or if you are very ill, there is really no place to open up and express how you feel," says Keller, who says that the open atmosphere in these workshops is unlike other group therapy milieus, where people are often "forced to open up." Keller maintains that the seminar is for everyone, even though it was originally based on dealing directly with death.

LTD seminars are an offshoot of the work done by Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, the psychiatrist who 30 years ago made dying the focus of her work. *On Death and Dying*, the first of her 19 books, is now mandatory reading for medical students, nurses, social workers and clergy. In the book she interviewed over 300 terminally ill patients and their families. She found that the issue of death, in our highly modernized and advanced society, was largely ignored, as were the people who were dealing with it. People were so busy trying to save and prolong lives, that they did not take the time to see what life itself entails.

Kubler-Ross's method was simple, it involved listening to patients. Whether it was concern about their medical care, resolving financial matters or worry for a family member, Dr. Kubler-Ross discovered that once patients' fears and worries were dealt with, they were more at peace with their future - whether that was death or life.

Kubler-Ross's work included starting the hospice care movement (taking terminally ill patients out of the hospital and moving them to warm, non-sterile environments), and writing books including *On Children and Death*, *Living with Death and Dying*, and *AIDS: The Ultimate Challenge*. These efforts raised the consciousness of the world on dealing with death.

Kubler-Ross is most recently known as the "AIDS lady," because of her efforts to remove HIV-positive babies from hospitals. She claimed that these "pincushion babies" are just excuses for hospitals to get research funds, and that in her care, "10% of their babies turn to HIV negative." Her center in Virginia, originally meant to house dozens of workshops, was nearly shut down by the community, which was fearful of her work with AIDS children. So until her recent retirement, the center served as a small training-center for facilitators: counselors who underwent seven years of training in the Kubler-Ross method.

As an evolution of all her work with the terminally ill, "Life, Death and Transition" workshops sprang up around the world. The seminars, like the one coming here, are open to all people with unresolved issues. Four facilitators will be coming to lead the 40-person seminar (Hebrew translations will be available).

Keller believes that the seminar, the first of its kind here, will benefit the Israeli consciousness. "It's about learning how to take care of yourself," says Keller. "It's about learning to respect each other."

For more information contact Kibbutz Tuval at (04) 990-7908.

That elusive fountain of youth

By A.M. CLARFIELD

The concept of longevity has been around for a long time as can be seen from the 3-700-year-old Babylonian clay tablets on which the story of the demigod Gilgamesh is inscribed. Dating back five millennia, the legend itself originated in the Middle East. The myth involves - among other things - Gilgamesh's quest and successful harvest of a thorny rejuvenating herb found at the bottom of the sea.

Although our hero did succeed in bringing this potent plant to the surface, it was stolen and eaten by - shades of the (somewhat less ancient) story of the Garden of Eden - a snake. In his distress, Gilgamesh resigned himself to the fact that he too would grow old and one day die.

Concern with extending (or even abolishing) the maximal human life span did not die out in ancient Babylon. Today, articles, books and movies on the subject abound. Perhaps because humankind has mastered the earth, the sky and the seas, it has the longest maximal life span - 121 years. However, life span and life expectancy are not synonymous, although the spread between them narrows as the environment improves.

The closest we can come to assessing life expectancy of *Homo sapiens* in the fossil state would be to examine data from the upper Paleolithic period (approximately 33,000 years ago). The average cave-person born in those days lived no more than 33 years. Things remained about the same until just after Gilgamesh's time, but by the early Iron Age (1150 BCE) food-gathering techniques, especially in our part of the world, had improved and men were living to about 38 years.

By the Roman Imperial period, average life expectancy had gained another couple of years, especially for senators. These figures waxed and waned throughout the medieval age and into the

Renaissance. As the environment continued to improve, for example in France, by the 19th century men lived to age 50.

Throughout all of this time, women's average had always been significantly less than that of her male counterpart, having mostly to do with the dangers of repeated pregnancies. Only in the 20th century has a woman's life expectancy overtaken that of man's.

Longevity theories can be classified into three types. The first involves the "antediluvian" theories so well-known to us from our Bible where extended life spans were granted to the righteous. For example, the book of Genesis provides us with a list of the patriarchs who were born before the Flood and lived to a ripe old age.

A second theory holds that there are special places in the world where people live forever, or at least for a very long time - the various Shangri-Las of myth and literature. This idea of a miraculous abode, where salubrious living conditions prevent, or at least retard, aging, has also been promulgated by modern scientists who perhaps should have known better.

The third theme is that of rejuvenation. These theories include Gilgamesh's magical plant as well as the mystical stirrings of the medieval alchemists. For their part, contemporary oonindustrialized people all have their favorite options and beliefs. The Yukaghir of Siberia, for example, are careful to maintain a few body lice in

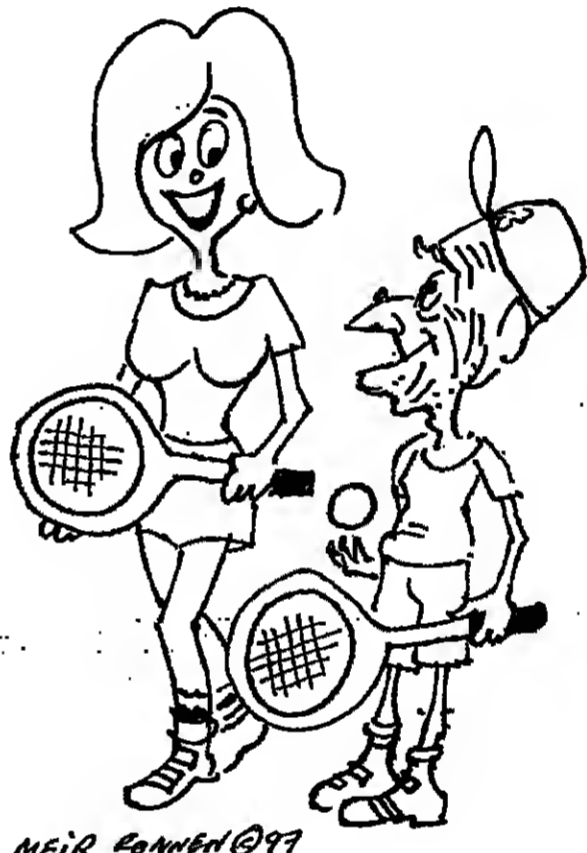
order to prolong life. Industrialized societies also exhibit some magical thinking in an attempt to stave off one of the scourges of modern life - atherosclerosis. In our near frenzy to avoid heart attack and stroke, we have invented bypass surgery, jogging, and oow, of all things, oat bran.

A more modern and realistic approach to the problem of longevity involves the concept of "squaring the curve." This theory offers that man's maximal life span is more or less limited by genetic and biological factors. Like the paleopathologists, its authors believe that as the environment improves, more and more people will live in good health to a ripe old age, then drop dead. This optimistic hypothesis has some merit and it is, of course, what we all hope for ourselves - a long happy life followed in close order by a short and painless death.

Although this "squaring" theory was only recently published in its recent form, the idea, at least for the individual, has been around for a long time. For example, take the ninth-century Moslem physician and philosopher Avicenna who advised: "The art of maintaining the health consists in guiding the body to its natural span of life... it is not the art of averting death or of securing the utmost longevity possible to the human being."

The concept of longevity is a fascinating one from the biological, medical, sociological, and anthropological points of view. Looking at present evidence, it would be fair to conclude that our maximal life span on the planet is more or less fixed, while the average life expectancy of Israelis continues to rise. Whether our last few years will be accompanied by the travails of chronic disease or an increasing vigor remains yet to be seen.

The challenge to modern medicine and society lies not in adding years to life, but rather life to years. At least until we locate the Fountain of Youth.



MEIR KAMEN 1997

PARENTING

Control of angry children

By RUTH MASON

How can we limit our child's behavior on the school bus? Our first-grader has been misbehaving on the bus by getting out of his seat, talking back to the bus monitor, and sometimes getting into fights with other children. The bus monitor has complained to us. What can we do?

Sylvia Zilberman, senior educational psychologist, answers this question.

I gather the question comes up because this disruptive behavior is not seen at home or at school. If the child does act this way at home and school as well as on the bus, then it sounds like a more generalized problem of impulse control. In that case, I would ask a few questions: Is this child not having boundaries or limits set for him? Is this a child whose parents are unable to stay in front of him, "this I allow and this I don't"? Are the parents too permissive? (By being too permissive, they leave the child alone in a way.)

I would also explore whether these parents are trying to discipline the child but they give in when the child becomes very angry or disruptive. Do they give

the child prizes before he does what he has to? Do they give him things that are openly against their values or above their means? An awareness that this type of parental approach can cause misbehavior in a child might be a first step to re-evaluating parenting styles.

If the disruptive behavior is seen only on the school bus, I can think of a few circumstances that might explain the behavior. In general terms, a child being disruptive on the bus on the way to school would be suffering from an inner tension that is expressed there rather than inside the home. This could be because the atmosphere at home is too restrictive to allow intense or even normal expressions of anger. Or the child may feel that one or both parents are too delicate, too weak, or too preoccupied with current life issues or other problems to be able to contain or cope with expressions of anger. It might be that the anger that is present on the way to school has to do with feelings of uneasiness about school such as a feeling of not performing up to standard, or being unsure of one's place in the children's social network.

Another possibility is that the tension stems from the home itself. Is the atmosphere at home too restrictive of expressions of desires, wishes and emotions? Is

the discipline too harsh? Are there actually expressions of aggression in the home by other members of the family that are carried over by the child outside?

I would invite the parents to look at themselves, to see if they are willing or unwilling to contain expressions of anger whatever their source, or if they put much more emphasis on what they want from the child rather than on what the child wants, and also have a look at what happens at school socially and otherwise. And, after having a good look, start to think about what they found out. I would suggest they talk to the child and see if he has some idea why this happens.

A note on containing anger: To contain a child's anger means to accept that sometimes we are very angry to the point of being willing to smash something. It doesn't mean you will actually smash something if someone is beside you helping you to hold the anger, to share it. The key is for the parent to just be there, not to be afraid, and to be able to talk about it. You convey that you're quite confident that the child's anger, no matter how fierce, won't destroy either you or the relationship, and that his anger doesn't make you so angry that you will feel a need to retaliate.

The Jerusalem Post & ZOA House Friday Morning Forum QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



DAVID BAR - ILLAN
Prime Minister's Senior Policy Adviser
FRIDAY, 24th JANUARY 10:30 a.m.
ZOA House, 1, Daniel Frisch,
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Moderator: Tom O'Dwyer
Foreign Editor, The Jerusalem Post

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BUSINESS

in brief

Survey: Business inquiries on Israel up

Foreign requests for business information on Israel increased 10 percent last year over 1995, reflecting investors' intentions to invest in the country, Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) reported yesterday. D&B, which provides information and reports on Israeli companies to foreign investors, said the majority of potential investors are from the US, Japan, England, and Germany. Last year started with a growth in foreign investments, but in April the trend changed as investors waited on the sidelines in the pre-election period, said D&B. In November foreign investors - mainly from England, Germany, Holland, and Belgium - expressed renewed interest. Interest from Japanese and US investors remained virtually unchanged, even during times of uncertainty. *Galit Lipkis Beck*

Guarantees approved for 30,000 housing units

The Knesset Finance Committee approved NIS 600 million in government guarantees yesterday for the construction of 30,000 housing units in 1997. The Treasury, which requested the guarantees, said they were necessary because most of the banks are already at the limit of the amount of credit they are permitted to loan construction firms. With government guarantees, however, they are allowed to lend more. The committee approved guarantees for 40,000 units in 1995 and another 20,000 last year, but only 30,000 of these units were actually built - 20,000 in 1995 and 10,000 in 1996. The 1997 guarantees will merely allow the remainder to be built. *Evelyn Gordon*

Cutback plan imminent at Foreign Ministry

The Foreign Ministry is expected to decide within the next week which legations it will close as part of its 1997 budget cuts. Senior civil servants will whittle down a possible 25 embassies and consulates at a meeting in Jerusalem. "We do not know how many or where they will be closed, but every geographical region in the world will be affected in some way," a ministry spokesman said. *David Harris*

Air-conditioner production scaling down

Manufacturers of air conditioners/heaters have temporarily closed production lines and fired seasonal workers due to weak market demand resulting from the relatively warm winter and the ongoing slowdown in the economy. Manufacturers initially forecast a sales increase of between 10 percent and 15 percent last year, but sales decreased 2%-3%, leaving many companies with unsold stock. *Galit Lipkis Beck*

Livnat overseas long-distance code lottery

A lottery to select the prefixes for international calls via the suppliers of overseas dialing services was conducted yesterday in the office of Communications Minister Limor Livnat. Bezeq International will have the prefix 014. The two newcomers, who will begin offering services in a few months, are Kavei Zahav, with the prefix 012, and Barak with the prefix 013. *Judy Siegel*

Gov't: Discount controlling share to be sold in '97

By EVELYN GORDON

The government plans to sell a controlling stake this year in Bank Discount, Meir Ya'acobson, the government official leading the efforts to sell the state's bank shares, told the Knesset Finance Committee's subcommittee on banking yesterday. The meeting was on the privatization of the banks, but Moshe Leon, who was put in charge of privatization by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, did not come, to the consternation of committee members. Subcommittee chairman Avi Yehzekel (Labor) said Leon gave no explanation for his non-appearance. Ya'acobson said Discount will

be the first bank to be sold by the new government, with 15 percent going on the block next month and a controlling stake to be sold by the end of the year. A controlling stake is 20% for a large bank and 26% for a medium-sized bank. MI Holdings, the state company headed by Ya'acobson, is looking into the possibility of selling controlling stakes of the banks on foreign stock exchanges, he said, but no decisions have yet been made. Another possibility is the so-called options plan approved by the previous government, in which every citizen would be given stock options on privatized state companies. The Netanyahu government has not yet discussed this plan, Ya'acobson noted.

Ben-Porat: Impose sanctions on public-sector wage violators

By EVELYN GORDON and DAVID HARRIS

Sanctions must be imposed on those guilty of excess wage payments in the public sector, or this phenomenon will never be uprooted, State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat told the Knesset State Control Committee yesterday.

The committee was discussing a Treasury report on public-sector wages in 1995, which found that 62 percent of the 669 bodies covered by the report were guilty of excess payments.

"It isn't a matter of a deviation here or there. It's a phenomenon," Ben-Porat told the committee. "I definitely think we need to apply sanctions, especially administrative ones... Without sanctions, this problem will continue."

Ben-Porat said that while at times excess wage payments amount to an "abuse of the public trust" meriting criminal prosecution, administrative sanctions - ranging from fines to firing the people responsible - are the appropriate remedy in most cases. She said the government should seriously consider a proposal by MK Moshe Shalal (Labor) to make those who approve illegal wage payments financially liable.

Committee chairman Ran Cohen (Meretz) noted that there are several sanctions available to the Treasury by law, ranging from firing the people responsible for excess pay-

ments to deducting the excesses from government grants to local authorities or funded organizations. However, he said, these sanctions are rarely used. The committee is therefore submitting a bill which would make it mandatory to fire board members or managing directors who approve illegally high salaries, he said.

Yossi Kucik, head of the Treasury's wage division, said the division is now setting up an enforcement unit which will include three or four attorneys. However, he said, this will solve only a small portion of the problem, because once such agreements are signed, it is very difficult to get them reversed.

"The local authorities [often] sign local agreements which I don't know anything about. I have no idea what they say; I hear about them afterwards from the state comptroller," he said. "This is the root of the evil."

Meanwhile, Knesset Labor and Social Affairs Committee chairman, and Lod Mayor, Maxim Levy, said the government is failing to prevent many of the excesses in public-sector pay.

With regard to government company and local authority pay, Finance Minister Dan Meridor and Interior Minister Eli Suissa respectively have the authority to prevent staff, particularly at senior management levels, from earning more than the Treasury-

recommended limits.

Kucik, who also appeared before the State Control Committee, added that there are many illegal benefits given by the local authorities which do not even show up in the Treasury's annual report - for instance, a city secretary who retired with full pension at age 49, on a base salary of some NIS 64,700 a month. He also cited the example of Tel Aviv's municipal hospital, Ichilov, whose general manager earns NIS 33,000 a month. The head of Sheba Hospital, in contrast, earns NIS 21,500 a month.

Kucik also blamed the Knesset, saying the 33%-40% wage rise it recently voted its members set a very bad example.

Cohen said that, according to calculations by Knesset Finance Committee economic adviser Smadar Elhanani, excess wage payments will cost the economy some NIS 1.5 billion this year.

"This is an enormous excess in terms of the burden on the public [purse]," he said.

Even worse, he charged, these excesses are leading to a growing wage gap between ordinary workers and senior officials. The salaries of ordinary workers in the local authorities, for instance, rose 2.7% in 1995, he said, while the salaries of senior officials rose 11.6%.

Ben-Porat's staff also presented some of their major findings regarding excess wage payments in the local authorities, which are

included in the comptroller's reports on the municipalities. In 1993, for instance, the Tel Aviv Municipality made some NIS 73m. worth of illegal payments to its workers - about 14% of its total wage bill. In Bnei Brak, the salaries of 16 senior officials rose by 65%-169% between 1989 and 1992, with one official's salary rising 343%. Inflation was only 59% during this period.

A delegation of mayors hotly protested the finger-pointing at the local authorities, however. Rishon LeZion Mayor Meir Nitzan charged that many of the so-called excess payments were made because money owed in 1994 was paid only in 1995, thereby artificially enlarging 1995's salaries, or other similar reasons.

He also charged that the excess payments were partly the government's fault, because it imposes too many tasks on the local authorities without giving them the necessary people and budgets. This means the municipalities have to overuse the people it has, which means extra payments, he said.

Finally, he contested the Treasury report's finding that the average salary in the local authorities is much higher than in the rest of the public sector. Nitzan said the average salary of senior officials in the local authorities was only NIS 12,684 in 1995, compared to NIS 15,531 in statutory bodies, NIS 17,985 in government companies and NIS 19,468 in funded bodies.



Marching monks

South Korean monks and priests hold a banner calling for the withdrawal of a new labor law during a protest march in Seoul yesterday. More than 200 monks and Roman Catholic priests attended the rally, demanding the repeal of the controversial law that allows mass layoffs. (AP)

Migdal picks 8 new execs

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

Migdal Insurance yesterday announced the appointment of eight new senior managers, paving the way for the group's revitalization of its senior management.

Migdal is among the nation's largest insurance groups and the biggest in the life-insurance field, considered the most profitable area. The group consists of five companies - Migdal, Hamagen, Shimshon, Maaz and Sela - as well as insurance agencies.

All the new appointments are from inside the group and involve relatively young people (the oldest is 51). The new managers will take over at the start of April.

Uzi Levy will continue to serve as the group's chief executive officer but will no longer be general manager of Migdal, a position he has held since 1983. Izzy Cohen, who currently manages Hamagen, will take over from Levy.

The company appointed Yohi Dvir, deputy manager of Migdal, to head the group's financial division.

Dvir will take over from accountant Avraham Sinal, who was appointed manager of Shimshon. Boaz Lineberg, general manager of Shimshon, was appointed manager of Hamagen.

The company appointed Orli Yarkoni, head of marketing, to head the general insurance and headquarters divisions.

Eli Landau was appointed head of the medical insurance division, and Amir Shelach was named head of the Binyan agency, the group's insurance agency holding firm.

Assicurazioni Generali, Italy's largest insurer, recently signed an agreement to acquire 40 percent of the Migdal group from Bank Leumi, which reduced its share to comply with the requirements of the banking (licensing) law. The change in ownership is expected to be finalized in about two months.

Bassiouny: Hebron deal will boost Israeli-Arab trade

By Jerusalem Post Staff

The Hebron agreement will increase prospects for both regional investment and Arab-Israeli trade, Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny said yesterday. "Smaller joint ventures will also be speeded up with the continuance of the peace process."

1994, bilateral trade was worth \$20 billion, doubling in 1995 to \$40m. and once again last year. "Trade between Egypt and Israel is also seen in numerous joint ventures, such as those in refineries and textiles," Bassiouny said. "The Hebron agreement has given the whole area a new spirit of agreement, said Mazen Khalaf, economic counselor at the Jordanian Embassy. "The Hebron agreement brings a breath of fresh air into the peace process, which takes away the tensions that have affected trade relations."

months has not been conducive to expanding projects and relations, but now hopefully the clouds have disappeared," he said. "The question of peace with Lebanon and Syria also affects future trade relations. Incidents in other countries can affect a decision of a potential investor in the region, and therefore a comprehensive peace is a major ingredient for investors and businessmen to take a serious step to do business here, said Khalaf. "When there is momentum in that direction, businessmen will follow. We must have peace first to attract business, but businessmen cement the peace process, they go hand in hand."

Development and Reconstruction. "Trade is not related only to Hebron but to the closure and [other] measures employed by the Israeli government, particularly in regard to permits, the closure and trade between Palestinians and Jordan, Egypt and Israel." Palestinians import \$1.3 billion worth of goods from Israel, while 64 percent of Palestinian exports go to Israel. "If the closure is lifted and people can import and export freely, then the volume of trade between Palestinians and Israelis will increase," he said.

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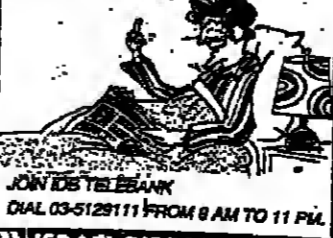
The Israel Electric Corporation Ltd. ("the IEC") hereby announces the publication of the List of Approved Suppliers ("the List"). It will be available for public review at the IEC's offices from February 1, 1997, Sunday to Thursday, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.:

Haifa - Pal-Yam Building, 11 Sd. Pal-Yam, ground floor
 Tel Aviv - Purchasing Department, 7 Rehov Hahashamal, room 209

Jerusalem - Purchasing Unit: 44 Rehov Hamelamed, Givat Shaul, room 139

Suppliers who are interested in receiving application forms for inclusion in the List or in obtaining other information may contact, in writing: Israel Electric Corporation Ltd., Suppliers Qualification and Approval, Supply and Stores Div., 11 Sd. Pal-Yam, Haifa 33095, Fax: 04-8615514.

Reading between the lines... you have time for trading action until 11 PM.



ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)

Currency (deposit size)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.76	5.00	5.37
U.S. dollar (\$50,000)	4.76	5.00	5.37
U.S. dollar (\$10,000)	4.76	5.00	5.37
U.S. dollar (\$1,000)	4.76	5.00	5.37
U.S. dollar (\$100)	4.76	5.00	5.37
U.S. dollar (\$10)	4.76	5.00	5.37
U.S. dollar (\$1)	4.76	5.00	5.37
U.S. dollar (\$0.10)	4.76	5.00	5.37
U.S. dollar (\$0.01)	4.76	5.00	5.37
U.S. dollar (\$0.001)	4.76	5.00	5.37

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (21.1.97)

CURRENCY BASKET	TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates**
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.5859	3.6438	3.19	3.2810	3.2240
German mark	2.0352	2.0890	1.77	1.83	1.8255
French franc	5.4085	5.4888	5.31	5.38	5.4588
Japanese yen (100)	0.6943	0.6939	0.69	0.68	0.6904
Swiss franc	2.7587	2.8032	2.71	2.82	2.8271
Dutch guilder	1.7855	1.8148	1.78	1.84	1.8029
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3211	2.3393	2.29	2.35	2.3248
Australian dollar	0.4699	0.4874	0.45	0.48	0.4649
Norwegian krona	0.5041	0.5123	0.49	0.52	0.5075
Denish krone	0.8261	0.8346	0.81	0.85	0.8310
British mark	0.6514	0.6624	0.66	0.71	0.6887
Canadian dollar	2.4332	2.4688	2.42	2.48	2.4524
Australian dollar	2.5229	2.5701	2.48	2.61	2.5524
S. African rand	0.8883	0.7098	0.83	0.71	0.7051
Belgian franc (10)	0.9727	0.9884	0.96	1.01	0.9822
Austrian schilling (10)	2.8518	2.8876	2.80	2.94	2.8793
Italian lira (1000)	2.0638	2.0888	2.02	2.18	2.0648
Jordanian dinar	4.5200	4.8300	4.52	4.88	4.8222
Egyptian pound (EGP)	0.8200	1.0100	0.82	1.01	1.0068
Irish punt	3.9350	3.9818	3.89	4.04	3.9439
Irish punt	5.2788	5.3818	5.18	5.41	5.3289
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3894	2.4381	2.28	2.48	2.4221

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel. SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Handwritten text in Arabic script: "بازار المال الإسرائيلي"



SEMIFINAL BOUND - Carlos Moya hits a backhand against fellow Spaniard Felix Mantilla in an Australia Open quarter-final match yesterday. Moya won in four sets.

Coetzer, Moya win, escape heat

MELBOURNE (AP) — Amanda Coetzer and Carlos Moya escaped the scorching heat by scoring their victories indoors. And when the heat reloaded, Michael Chang provided his own.

Chang wore down Marcelo Rios 7-5, 6-1, 6-4 to reach the Australian Open semifinals yesterday, after Coetzer and Moya became the first and only match winners so far in a Grand Slam tournament with the stadium roof closed because of extreme heat.

By the time Chang played at night, outside temperatures had cooled from 102 degrees F (39C) in the shade — and up to 140F (60C) on court — to the low 70s F (20s C), and the center court roof was open.

But No. 2 seed Chang, a finalist here last year, acted as his own pressure-cooker, pounding back shot after shot against the ninth-seeded Chilean.

Mary Pierce, the 1995 champion, also got to play in the evening cool, but had to come back from 0-3 in the final set to beat No. 16 Sabine Appelmans 1-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Pierce, who has slipped to 22nd in the rankings from No. 3 early in 1995, had plenty of help from Appelmans. The Belgian double faulted three times in the final set's fourth game and once in the sixth as Pierce battled back to 3-3. Six of Appelmans' 11 double faults came in the final set. Another one ended the second set.

"I think it was mostly nerves," Appelmans said.

She said she missed her best chance when she failed to convert two break points at 15-40 in the

second set's seventh game, missing an easy putaway of a drop shot at 30-40.

But now, "I'm so glad it's over. I was a little nervous all day" about being in her first Grand Slam quarter-final, she said.

Pierce kept Appelmans on the run with heavy groundstrokes, but her quest for winners led to numerous errors, too. Appelmans saved two match points at 4-5 before netting a drop shot while trying to save the third.

At the start, Pierce said, she didn't have much energy, but later managed to get her feet moving and become more aggressive.

"Days like these are the ones that count the most, when you feel like nothing is going well, when you don't feel very good and you're not playing good, to fight for every point until the end," she added.

She next meets the 12th-seeded Coetzer, who ousted No. 1 Steffi Graf on Sunday. Coetzer advanced to her second consecutive Australian semifinal by beating American Kimberly Po 6-4, 6-1 in 66 minutes.

Moya, who played his first four Grand Slam tournaments last year, never getting past the second round, reached the men's semifinals with a 7-5, 6-2, 6-7(5-7), 6-2 victory over Spanish compatriot Felix Mantilla, seeded 14th.

Both matches were played in air-conditioned temperatures in the mid-70s F (mid-20s C) on center court, while doubles matches and all boys' and girls' matches went on outside in sauna-like conditions.

The roof can be closed any time for rain, but the decision to shut out the heat applied only to yesterday's day session. The cooler weather that arrived at night was expected to last several days.

"I would have preferred to play outside," said Coetzer, who trained in the Florida heat for Melbourne's conditions. "I love playing out in the sunshine. But it was probably a bit of a break for both of us not to be in the heat and the wind."

And she added, her preparations already had paid off in her victory over Graf, who ran out of energy from the effects of the heat and an infected toe.

"All my training and hard work were not quite in vain," she said.

Even without the heat, Coetzer wore down Po by running down every shot and waiting for her to miss.

"She moves you around with spin and slice and keeps it a little out of your range," said Po, who over had advanced past the third round in 18 previous Grand Slam tournaments.

"I'm a little angry because I made so many errors, but she makes you do that. That's her game."

Coetzer won the first set of her semifinal against Anke Huber last year before bowing 4-6, 6-4, 6-2.

This time, "I feel like if I do get an opportunity, I'm a little bit more mature than what I was last year in some ways," she said.

Coetzer did not quarrel with the rule that referee Peter Bellenger could decide to close the roof in temperatures of 95F (35C) or

more once the tournament had reached the quarter-finals, all played on the 15,000-seat center court. Before that, fairness is an issue since some matches are played on outside courts that don't have retractable roofs.

But Michael Chang's coach, his brother Carl, said the roof closing had changed the conditions of the tournament.

"If you happen to have put in the training and the work so that you can cope with the heat, then you should have the chance to be rewarded," he said.

Mantilla said he also had come to Melbourne "prepared to play under the conditions that the tournament should be played under."

Keeping the roof open probably would not have made much difference against the fit Moya, he said, but "I'm very disappointed on the way that I was treated."

He said he had warmed up mostly in the wind and sun on center court before the roof was closed. Moya practiced next, under the roof.

Moya, meanwhile, wanted to talk about the match.

"I'm in the semifinals, I beat him and the first question is about the roof," said Moya, who upset defending champion Boris Becker in the first round. "I was going to play anyway if it was snowing, raining or whatever."

As for the match, "I had to play my best tennis here and for the first time had to take more risks," said Moya, the first Spaniard to make the semifinals in the Australian since Andres Gimeno lost to Rod Laver in the 1969 final.

National soccer squad hosts Greece at Teddy

By DEREK FATTAL

Israel's national soccer team takes to the field tonight at the capital's Teddy Stadium to take on Greece. The match, the first of three friendly internationals, is designed to get the side back into form prior to the resumption of its World Cup qualifying campaign in March against Luxembourg.

The Greeks had the upper hand when the two sides met last January in Khalkis, the hosts winning, 2-1.

Israeli coach Shlomo Scharf named his starting 11 last night for what will be his 50th match as coach, with no fewer than six Betar Jerusalem players, accompanied by Bnei Yehuda center forward Alon Harazi and four Maccabi Tel Aviv team members. Betar fullback Shmuelik Levy is set to make his international debut while Nir Klinger is selected for his 81st appearance in his country's colors.

Despite the wintry weather, the Israel Football Association is hoping for a bumper turnout by Betar fans who will have an opportunity to cheer on their star players after a two-week break in the National League program.

With the fortunes of the national side likely to become more and more dependent on its Betar contingent, these three matches offer an ideal opportuni-

ty for Scharf to fashion a new-look side together without the do-or-die pressures associated with a full-scale competitive fixtures.

One potentially fascinating mix for the fans is the pairing in attack of Eli Ohana with Alon Harazi, while the prospect of Itzik Zohar at the creative helm in front of his home crowd may herald his long-awaited promotion from the substitutes' bench to become an automatic selection in midfield alongside Eyal Berkovitz and Haim Revivo.

Scharf must get his men on the goal trail tonight, as the side cannot afford another dismal display like the miserable 1-0 performance against Luxembourg. Greece however will be no pushover, having fared relatively well to date in its own World Cup qualifying matches.

The match kicks off at 6 pm and will be featured live on Channel 1 and Israel Radio.

In other developments, Moshe Sinai will this weekend finally part from Hapoel Tel Aviv, the club he has served as a star player and coach.

Sinai, who finalized terms yesterday with Histadrut treasurer Shmuel Avital, will receive severance pay of NIS 1.5 million in a deal that opens the way for the club to be sold. Sinai will coach the club for its State Cup fixture this Saturday vs. Ironi Ashdod.

Curt Flood at 59

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Curt Flood was always up for a challenge. Standing alone in shallow center field, he would defy batters to hit one over him. Flood was equally brazen off the field, bucking baseball's reserve system to single-handedly alter the game's future.

Flood, an All-Star center fielder of the St. Louis Cardinals who took his fight for baseball free agency all the way to the US Supreme Court, died Monday of throat cancer. He was 59.

Flood was best remembered for fighting baseball's long-standing reserve clause — rules that prohibited players from choosing which teams they wished to play for.

"Every major league baseball player owes Curt Flood a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid," pitchers David Cone and Tom Glavine — the current AL and NL player representatives — said in a statement. "With the odds overwhelmingly against him, he was willing to take a stand for what he knew was right."

Flood's fight began after the 1969 season, when he was traded to Philadelphia. Flood, however, refused to report to the Phillies.

He asked then-commissioner Bowie Kuhn to declare him a free agent, but was turned down.

Ronaldo FIFA player of year

BARCELONA (AP) — Barcelona's Brazilian striker Ronaldo was named FIFA's player of the year on Monday, edging out AC Milan's Liberian star George Weah and Newcastle's Alan Shearer.

In his first year with FC Barcelona, the 20-year-old Brazilian with the distinctive shaven head and powerful build has shown talents that have impressed the 120 national squad coaches who choose the winner.

His goal-getting skills — he is top Spanish league scorer with 15 goals from 20 matches — have drawn frequent comparisons to all-time soccer greats Pele, Diego Maradona and Johan Cruyff.

The award ceremony had been overshadowed by the international soccer body's controversial selection of Weah — who was named top player last year — for its "Fair Play" prize despite the recent six-match ban he received for head-butting FC Porto's Jorga Costa.

Atlanta, Seattle still perfect in '97

NEW YORK (AP) — It's been a second-year Grizzlies their 100th perfect year so far for the Atlanta Hawks and Seattle SuperSonics.

The hot Hawks improved to 10-0 in 1997 by beating the Charlotte Hornets 106-97 on Monday night. The Sonics raised their January record to 8-0 with a 112-96 win over the Vancouver Grizzlies.

Steve Smith scored a season high 31 points as the Hawks won their 17th straight home game.

Christian Laettner added 23 points and Mookie Blaylock had 20 points and 10 assists for the Hawks. Glen Rice led Charlotte with 33 points.

At Seattle, Gary Payton scored 30 points as the Sonics handed the

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CLASSIFIEDS

RATES

PRICES ARE AS FOLLOWS - All rates include VAT:

Single Weekday - NIS 128.70 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word - NIS 12.87

FRIDAY AND HOLIDAY EVE - NIS 198.90 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word - NIS 19.89

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WEEK RATE (8 insertions) - NIS 409.50 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word - NIS 40.95

FOUR FRIDAYS (package) - NIS 526.50 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word - NIS 52.65

MONTHLY (24 insertions) - NIS 994.50 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word - NIS 99.45

New Rates are valid until February 28, 1997.

DEADLINES OFFICES: Jerusalem - weekdays: 12 noon the day before publication; for Friday 4 p.m. on Thursday. Tel Aviv and Haifa - weekdays: 12 noon, 2 days before publication; for Friday and Sunday: 4 p.m. Thursday in Tel Aviv and 12 noon Thursday in Haifa.

For telephone enquiries please call 02-5315944.

DWELLINGS
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Welcome to the 'Big Easy'

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The Super Bowl is back in New Orleans, a place where something strange usually happens when the NFL drops anchor.

A sort of mystifying state of mind takes over that causes curtains to be broken, quarterbacks to act wacky and produces ominous whispers about drugs and gamblers.

Maybe that's understandable with The French Quarter and Bourbon Street sitting in the middle of downtown, tantalizing visitors with everything from jazz to jambalaya. And right around the corner from the team hotels.

Jim McMahon, now Green Bay's backup quarterback, was the high-profile starter for the Chicago Bears when they played the Patriots in the 1986 game.

He raised a flap by selling advertising space on his headband, and when the league barred that, he responded with alternative messages, finally settling on "Hiroshi" a tribute to the Japanese acupuncture needles worked magic on McMahon's muscles, allowing the quarterback to bend over during practice and moon a low-flying helicopter.

McMahon also was the center of another flap when he was quoted as using some uncomplimentary terms for the local citizenry. Only

thing was, he never said any of it. The result was a suspension for the local sportscafter who reported the story and even wore new slogans for the headband merchants.

When McMahon made his requisite visit to Bourbon Street to sample the cuisine, he was accompanied by one of the great pound-muscles in NFL history, 305-pound Refrigerator Pease.

The first New Orleans Super Bowl in 1970 was jolted by reports that Don Dawson had ties to a Detroit gambler. Like the McMahon affair, the story had no basis in fact and Dawson responded by being the game's MVP in a 23-7 victory over Minnesota.

The Super Bowl is supposed to be in a warm-weather setting so the climate doesn't interfere with the game. New Orleans, though, has occasionally challenged that premise. The coldest game in the series was played at Tulane Stadium in 1972 when the thermometer barely nudged 40F (5C).

Two of Denver's four Super Bowl losses occurred here, including a 55-10 embarrassment against San Francisco in 1990, the biggest blowout in Super Bowl history.

In 1981, with the US hostages released by Iran just days before the game, a yellow ribbon was wrapped around the Superdome. Oakland defeated Philadelphia 27-10 that day.

SCOREBOARD

ENGLISH SOCCER - last night's results, FA Cup 3rd round: Gillingham 0, Derby 2; Luton 1, Bolton 1; Wimbledon 2, Crewe 0 (3rd-round replay). League Cup, quarter-finals: Ipswich 0, Leicester 1.

NFL - Monday's results: Colorado 4, Florida 2; Washington 3, Boston 2; St. Louis 6, NY Islanders 4; Buffalo 2, Chicago 1; Hartford 3, Toronto 1; Montreal 4, Detroit 1; Vancouver 6, San Jose 1.

AP/10/20

CRITIC'S CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Semyon Bychkov leads the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra in its first-ever performance of Richard Strauss's Also sprach Zarathustra...

On Saturday, Bychkov and Harrell feature in a light classics concert of Ravel's second Daphnis et Chloe suite...

The Israel Sinfonietta, Beersheba, returns to an operatic mode as in a program with the Tel Aviv Philharmonic Choir and mezzo-soprano Tamara Zohar...



Author A.B. Yehoshua is one of the 'Faces of Contemporary Culture' at the Hebrew University.

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

*** RANSOM. - Ron Howard's kidnapper-thriller isn't especially subtle or innovative, but it does exert a grim sort of fascination...

*** 1/2 SECRETS AND LIES. - The winner of the Palme d'Or at the 1996 Cannes film festival, Mike Leigh's latest movie is an eminently watchable, stylistically unremarkable character-driven melodrama...

Leigh's usual exacting, and often sharply comic eye for class and character nuance...

THEATER

HELEN KAYE

Playwright Moti Averbuch has taken a sharp and debunking look at our history in Berto's Piano, the story of the strife-torn relations between the Baron Edmund de Rothschild and the first settlers of Rishon LeZion...

EXHIBITION

An exhibition of photographs of Italian and Israeli writers and intellectuals by Vincenzo Cottinelli is on display at the Hebrew University. The exhibition, entitled 'Faces of Contemporary Culture'...

TV

CHANNEL 1

8:31 News in Arabic 8:45 Good Morning Israel 8:00 Rembrandt and his Paints 8:30 On Second Thought 9:00 Social Sciences 9:45 Programs for the very young 10:15 100 Years of Zionism 11:15 Geography 11:40 Judaism 12:35 Science and Technology 13:00 In the Heat of the Night 14:00 Surprise Train 14:20 Kity Cat and Tommy 14:35 Baber the Elephant 15:00 Animals

CHANNEL 2

15:30 Tinytown Tales 15:50 Body 16:00 Who's Afraid of the Dark? 16:25 Zap to 3 - joint broadcast with Radio 3 16:55 Zap to Basel 18:29 A New Evening 17:34 Zap to Basel 17:55 News - Israel vs. Greece, live from Teddy Stadium, Jerusalem

CHANNEL 3

8:15 Today's Programs 8:30 Scoobydoo 7:00 The Flintstones 7:30 The Five Mrs. Buchanans 8:00 Dame Edna's Neighbourhood Watch 8:35 Four x Thirty - documentary about four women aged 30 9:25 Fine Things - based on the novel by Danielle Steele 10:15 Champions 10:25 - The true story of a jockey who battled cancer in order to win the Grand National. With John Hurt and Kenneth Woodward. (115 mins.) 12:30 Health Magazine 13:00 Open Cards 14:00 Ego Post 14:30 Tic Tac - quiz show 15:00 Top Cat 15:30 Dave's World 16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful 17:00 News magazine with Rafi Reshef 17:30 SportTV 18:00 News 19:00 Family Album 20:00 News 20:30 Wonderful World 22:00 Bat Yam - New Year 22:35 NYPD 22:35 Synergy - Yaron London Interviews Shimon Eilon and Meir Buznitsky 00:00 News 00:05 Synergy - continued 00:35 Monsieur Verdoux (1947) -

CHANNEL 4

7:00 TV Shop 14:30 700 Club 15:00 Sidelation 15:25 He Walked by Night (1948) - semi-documentary of a killer being tracked by police. With Richard Basehart, Scott Brady and Roy Roberts. (79 mins.) 16:55 Family Channel 17:40 Family Matters 18:05 Saved by the Bell 18:20 Larry King 18:30 World News Tonight 20:00 Coach 20:25 Dave's World 20:50 News 21:15 Paradise Hawaiian Style (1966) - Elvis Presley runs a pilot service in Hawaii (91 mins.) 22:10 No Man's Land - media magazine 23:00 Keeping Up Appearances 23:30 News 00:00 Verse of the Day

CHANNEL 5

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TV

CHANNEL 1

8:31 News in Arabic 8:45 Good Morning Israel 8:00 Rembrandt and his Paints 8:30 On Second Thought 9:00 Social Sciences 9:45 Programs for the very young 10:15 100 Years of Zionism 11:15 Geography 11:40 Judaism 12:35 Science and Technology 13:00 In the Heat of the Night 14:00 Surprise Train 14:20 Kity Cat and Tommy 14:35 Baber the Elephant 15:00 Animals

CHANNEL 2

15:30 Tinytown Tales 15:50 Body 16:00 Who's Afraid of the Dark? 16:25 Zap to 3 - joint broadcast with Radio 3 16:55 Zap to Basel 18:29 A New Evening 17:34 Zap to Basel 17:55 News - Israel vs. Greece, live from Teddy Stadium, Jerusalem

CHANNEL 3

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PRIME TIME TV

Table with 8 columns (1-8) and 5 rows (19:30-23:00) listing TV programs and channels.

18:30 Looney Toons 18:45 Tasmara 19:00 Little Flying Bears 19:30 Ital and Friends - children's talk show 20:10 Rock's Modern 20:25 Married with Children 20:50 Roseanne 21:15 Lois and Clark

18:30 The Ticker 18:45 Sate Scott 21:00 Dastine 22:00 Ski Jumping from Colorado 23:00 Tonight Show with Jay Leno 00:00 Late Night with Conan O'Brien 1:00 Later with Greg Kinnear 1:30 NBC News 2:00 Tonight Show with Jay Leno 3:00 MSNBC - Intermitt

6:00 Open University - Martin Luther King Jr.: Michael's Story 12:00 Animal Connections, part 2 (pt) 13:00 Mary Magdalene, An Intimate Portrait (pt) 14:00 Open University (pt) 15:00 Animal Carnivals (pt) 17:00 Mary Magdalene, An Intimate Portrait (pt) 18:00 Open University (pt) 20:00 United States Television, part 4 - Interactive television: talk shows, game and quiz shows 21:00 World of Geo: Valley of Ancestors - the Masai tribe in East Africa 22:00 Heart of Healing, part 4 - Love in Your Life 23:00 United States 23:00 News (pt) 00:00 Open University

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CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS: 1 Unsciable as a rugby-player? (5-6) 7 Part of horse is shrivelling (7) 8 Show symbol of authority, namely, before holding exercises (7) 10 Rate the first of September chilly (5) 11 Now perish miserably in state of possession (9) 12 Race past island is friendly (7) 14 Given attention-free of charge? (7) 15 Block for student going to lectures? (4-3) 18 Greek character has list of data that may be changed (7)

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solutions.

QUICK CROSSWORD section with clues and solutions.

MOVIES

Dragonheart @ Trainspotting @ To Die For 5, 7, 30, 10 * Twelve Monkeys @ Primal Fear 7, 15, 10 * G.G. Ori Daylight Stealing Beauty @ First Wives Club 5, 7, 30, 10 * Sleepers 7 * RAV-NEGVEV 1-4 = 23278 Ransom 5, 7, 15, 9, 45 * The Mirror Kiss Goodnight 4, 7, 15, 9, 45 * Breaking the Waves 7, 9, 45 * Jingle All the Way 5 HADRON LEV Ransom 7, 30, 10 * The Truth About Cats and Dogs 5, 7, 30, 10 * MORI-MA H CAFE = 6 8 4 3 8 5 4 Secrets and Lies 7, 15, 9, 45 * HOLIDAY Long Kiss Goodnight 4, 7, 15, 9, 45 * The Eighth Day 4, 7, 9, 30 * RAV-NEGVEV 1-4 = 23278 Kiss Goodnight @ Ransom 4, 7, 15, 9, 45 * Dragonheart 4, 7, 15, 9, 45 * Daylight @ Surviving Picasso @ First Wives Club 4, 7, 15, 9, 45 * MORI-MA H CAFE = 6 8 4 3 8 5 4 Secrets and Lies 7, 15, 9, 45 * HOLIDAY Long Kiss Goodnight 4, 7, 15, 9, 45 * The Eighth Day 4, 7, 9, 30 * RAV-NEGVEV 1-4 = 23278 Kiss Goodnight @ Ransom 4, 7, 15, 9, 45 * Dragonheart 4, 7, 15, 9, 45 * Daylight @ Surviving Picasso @ First Wives Club 4, 7, 15, 9, 45 * MORI-MA H CAFE = 6 8 4 3 8 5 4 Secrets and Lies 7, 15, 9, 45 * HOLIDAY Long Kiss Goodnight 4, 7, 15, 9, 45 * 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NEWS

in brief

Police identify murder victim

Police have set up a squad headed by Supt. Jean Ajuwad to investigate the stabbing of Walid Abu al-Hijab, 30, of Tamra in the Galilee, whose body was found in Haifa's sculpture garden in the French Carmel district on Monday night. *David Rudge*

Hadassah mid-winter conference opens

Hadassah opens its mid-winter conference in Jerusalem today. Usually held in New York, the conference was moved to Jerusalem in response to a dramatic fall-off in tourism. Hadassah's national board, according to local Hadassah spokesman Eli Hacohen, decided that it was not good enough to support Israel from a distance so 200 national board members, led by Hadassah president Marlene Post, arrived here yesterday. Conference highlights will be a panel discussion on Tolerance: Roots and Ramifications and the inauguration of an annual Hadassah Women of Distinction award to six outstanding Israeli women in different fields. *Greer Fay Cashman*

Arad gets new mobile intensive care ambulance

A new mobile intensive care ambulance is to be dedicated today in Arad. Magen David Adom announced yesterday. The ambulance, based at MDA's Arad station and packed with the most advanced equipment, will be manned by a highly trained paramedic and medic/driver. There are now 26 mobile intensive care ambulances and units (the mobile intensive care units have a physician as well) around the country. *Judy Siegel*

Bezeq removes 'chauvinistic' recording

Any woman who has been offended by Bezeq's "chauvinistic" recorded message using the masculine singular will be pleased: Communications Minister Limor Livnat ordered the company to change the Hebrew words from *Ana hamten* (please wait) to the gender-neutral *Na le'hamtin*. A new recording has been made and the new version has been playing on all recordings connected to Bezeq's service numbers since yesterday. *Judy Siegel*

Israeli elected to head children's rights group

A representative from Israel has been selected for the first time as president of the international executive committee of Defense of Children International. The 40-member organization, which has UN observer status and is based in Geneva, monitors and acts for the rights of children worldwide. The new president, Dr. Philip Veerman, was elected unanimously by representatives of 29 branches who participated in the general assembly in Senegal two days ago, including representatives from Islamic states such as Tunisia and Senegal. His appointment on Saturday was not unexpected, but several states may have been influenced by the signing of the Hebron agreement the day before, Israeli representatives of DCI speculated. *Jon Immanuel*

Traffic court trials last less than three minutes

The average traffic court judge hears some 150 cases a day, or one every two to three minutes, the Knesset Law Committee was shocked to learn yesterday. Deputy director of the court system Judge Roni Brodsky said more traffic judges are desperately needed.

Committee chairman Shaul Yahalom (National Religious Party) said he would submit a bill to save time by enabling people to admit or deny traffic charges in writing, rather than having to come to court once to deny the charge and a second time for the trial. Yahalom also protested the practice whereby traffic tickets are mailed out months after a violation has taken place, saying no one can remember what happened and defend himself after so much time. *Evelyn Gordon*

Poll: 10% of HU students use drugs

Nearly two-thirds of Hebrew University students polled say they have never used psychoactive drugs, but 10 percent admitted to being "regular users" and an additional 18.5% said they have used them at least once in the past year.

The survey was conducted in December 1995 by Dr. Rabel Bar-Hamburger, chief scientist of the government's Anti-Drug Authority, and published yesterday. It produced results similar to those of a 1994 survey of the same students.

Eight percent of those surveyed said they had used smoked hashish or marijuana at least once in the previous year, while 2.5% used "hard drugs," including heroin (or the heroin substitute Adolan), cocaine, crack, LSD or Ecstasy during that period. *Judy Siegel*

MKs approve salary hike

Increase postponed until April 1

By LIAT COLLINS

Knesset members yesterday approved a 6.9 percent wage hike for themselves, although they effectively postponed the increase by two months and will not receive it until their April 1 pay checks.

Although the Knesset House Committee had accepted a compromise proposed by coalition chairman Michael Eitan, under which the wage hike would be put off by six months, the parliamentarians decided the period should start retroactively from last October when they were originally scheduled to get the hike.

At the time, they agreed to give up the 6.9 percent adjustment, because they had received an additional 33 percent rise under the recommendations of the Rosen-Zvi Report.

The committee yesterday discussed a request by Finance Minister Dan Meridor to forgo the wage rise for a year, because it is linked to the wages of senior civil servants and could trigger off a wave of salary hikes in the highest paid sectors of the Civil Service.

Eitan's proposal was accepted also by Labor faction chairman Ra'anan Cohen and Knesset House Committee chairman Raphael Pinhasi (Shas). Meridor said he reserves the right to appear again to ask the hike be postponed by another six months.

Nine MKs supported the proposal, seven objected, and one abstained. The parliamentary aides union, chaired by Ronen Tzur, suggested the raise be forwarded to its members "to demonstrate public responsibility."

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu sent a letter to Pinhasi before the meeting saying he opposes the wage hike for MKs.



Shas Interior Minister Eli Suissa (left) and MK Haggai Merom (Labor) contemplate giving themselves and their colleagues a raise before the Knesset vote on the issue yesterday. (Flash 90)

"In these days of necessary widespread cuts in the government's budget and public expenses, there is absolutely no place for raising the salaries of MKs and senior civil servants," wrote Netanyahu. "At a time like this,

elect public figures should act as a personal example and not raise their salaries. As prime minister, I forgo the possible proposed addition to my wages and I ask the rest of the elected representatives to do the same." He said he would

contribute his salary increase to the JNF.

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon stressed that the wages were determined by an outside public body, although the MKs have to approve them.

Weiss: Club of 120 is more diverse than ever

By LIAT COLLINS

"The Club of the 120," as MK Shevah Weiss (Labor) calls the Knesset, is more diverse than ever before. The former speaker drew up a profile of the current House and discovered its members include 109 Jews, 10 Arabs and one Druze, an unprecedentedly large number of Arab MKs. Twenty-eight MKs are religious Jews who wear kippot. There are nine women parliamentarians.

Of the Jewish MKs, a division into ethnic origin shows 26 Sephardim born abroad; 16 are European-born; and 67 were born in Israel. Altogether, 64 MKs are Ashkenazi and 45 Sephardi.

A study of the educational background shows that 51 MKs have a bachelors degree; 14 a masters degree; and 12 have a PhD, including eight professors. Three MKs have military education equivalent to an academic background and 13 have a religious further education.

The faction with the highest educational profile is Yisrael Ba'alya, whose seven MKs include two professors, three doctors of philosophy and one mathematician. However, all nine MKs of Hadass and the Democratic Arab Party are academics.

Twenty-two MKs have a legal background; there are three engineers, three physicists/mathematicians, one geologist (Likud MK Ze'ev Begin), one medical doctor (Labor MK Ephraim Sneh) and an actress (Likud MK Naomi Blumenthal).

Regarding military service, Weiss discovered that

the despite the public conception that haredim do not serve, seven out of the 10 Shas MKs had been in the IDF. The vast majority of MKs had served in the military and the ranks reached include six lieutenants; 11 captains; five majors; one lieutenant-colonel, two colonels; three brigadier-generals; four major-generals; and two chiefs-of-staff.

The 120 MKs come from 72 different towns and communities: 20 from Jerusalem; 11, Tel Aviv; and four each from Bnei Brak and Haifa. Kfar Sava, Ramat Hasharon, Ramat Gan and Ra'anana are each the home of two MKs. Several MKs live in development towns ranging from Migdal Ha'emek to Sderot (two each).

The most northern MK is Michael Nudelman (Yisrael Ba'alya) from Kiryat Shmona, the most southern is former Arad mayor Avraham Shohat (Labor). Six MKs live over the Green Line. Seven MKs are kibbutzniks (compared to 28 in the first Knesset), three of them from coalition parties; eight MKs are moshavniks, only one of them from Labor.

Five MKs also are mayors: 14 are former mayors and 37 have a strong background in municipal affairs.

Thirteen MKs have a family connection to former MKs; most are "sons of," but the number includes Ya'el Dayan (daughter of Moshe, granddaughter of Shmuel) and Na'omi Chazan (Meretz), whose mother, Zina Herman, was an MK.

Shimon Peres, at 73, is the oldest MK; the youngest are Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai (Shas) and Eliezer Zandberg (Tsomet), both 34.

Haifa Chemicals management resists reopening factory

By DAVID RUDGE

The Haifa Chemicals bayside factory, where production has been at a standstill for over three months, remained closed yesterday, despite Histadrut instructions to the firm's 500 employees to return to work.

The Histadrut's call followed the Haifa District Labor Court's decision on Monday night to extend the collective labor agreement for two years, after management earlier annulled the accord.

The workers, who have been protesting to retain the collective agreement, said they viewed the court's decision as an end to the long-running dispute with management and they reported for work yesterday morning.

Management, however, did not reopen the plant and spokesman Eitan Loewenstein said it would remain closed until all legal proceedings had been completed. Loewenstein said management submitted an appeal early yesterday to the National Labor Court in Jerusalem against the regional court ruling.

The hearing on the appeal is to open this evening, but a ruling is not expected immediately. The matter is unlikely to end even if the national court does rule in favor of management.

The Histadrut has already made it clear that in such an event it will appeal to the High Court of Justice.

in order to preserve the Haifa Regional Labor Court's decision to retain and extend the period of the collective labor agreement.

Baruch Zaltz, head of the Histadrut's Haifa and district branch, also instructed the union's legal advisers to prepare to submit a petition to the regional labor court to force management to reopen the factory and pay the workers' salaries. Such a move is likely to be made during the course of management's appeal to the National Labor Court against the extension of the collective agreement.

Management wanted to annul the accord in order to implement sweeping efficiency measures, including the dismissal of 120 workers, to enable the company - the world's biggest producer of potassium nitrate - to compete profitably on overseas markets.

It has been agreed in negotiations between the two sides that 60 workers will take early retirement, but the Histadrut has categorically opposed management's demand to fire another 30 "problematic" workers.

Negotiations are to continue, despite the legal proceedings, amid growing concern that Haifa Chemicals' owner Arye Genger might decide to close the factory if the dispute is not resolved soon.

There have been reports that Genger, who lives in New York, is considering a merger with a Chilean company that is one of Haifa Chemicals' main rivals.

Yishai says more strikes are expected

By DAVID HARRIS

Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai yesterday drew a gloomy economic picture of the next year, which he predicted would include an increasing number of workers' strikes. This followed the publication on Monday of a report on recent developments on the labor front, compiled by chief labor relations officer Shlomo Yitzhaki.

Previous reports show that 1994 and 1995 were years of "industrial quiet" with relatively few labor disputes and days lost because of strike action. However, in recent weeks there have been an increasing number of notices of industrial disputes and calls for Yitzhaki to intervene.

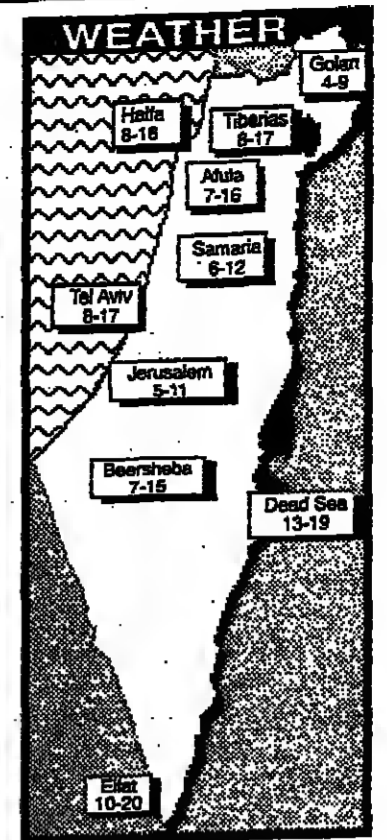
In his report, Yitzhaki also pointed to the recent Histadrut organized strikes, which brought many of the country's public sector industries to a standstill, alongside the ongoing action being taken in the Arab local authorities.

Another worrying trend, according to Yitzhaki, is the trend of abolishing collective agreements in the workplace. This should be cause for concern to the government, Yitzhaki said.

Referring back to the 1985 program, Yitzhaki said cooperation between the various parties brought about the reduction in inflation. Negotiations should form a major part of finalizing employment arrangements, he said.

There were 71 full strikes in 1995, in which 75,792 workers participated, compared to 75 strikes a year earlier. During 1995, 257,796 days were lost, down from 729,553 in 1994. The majority of days lost through strike action in 1995 (67 percent), were in the public sector.

Of the public sector strikes, 24% were concerning redundancies, 23% regarding pay claims, 20% the result of disputes over work agreements and 16% over delays in payment of wages.



Winning cards and numbers

The winning cards in yesterday's daily Chance draw were the 9 of spades, 7 of hearts, jack of diamonds, and king of clubs.

The winning numbers in yesterday's weekly Loto draw were 4, 8, 19, 30, 44, and 47. The additional number was 10.

Nigerian journalist expelled

A Nigerian journalist who had asked Israel for refugee status was sent back to Nigeria yesterday, before the Haifa District Court heard his appeal. Eugene Waslo, 31, had arrived as a tourist and was arrested when his visa expired.

He pleaded for permission to stay in the country, saying he would be murdered if he went back to Nigeria. (Tim)

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France calls Nazi-looted

By TOM GROSS

The French government yesterday announced that it will demand the return of Nazi-looted art from Germany.

On Tuesday, the French government announced that it had filed a lawsuit with the German courts to demand the return of 100 Nazi-looted artworks.

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